

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 6:13 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, April 11, 2016
Attachments: Apr11.htm; Apr11House.htm; 160411dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Monday, April 11, 2016

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Volume #85, Report #69 | Monday, April 11, 2016

House, Senate Chairs Set Criminal Justice Legislative Priorities For Coming Months

The legislator who leads the Senate Criminal Justice Committee said his goal for the group over the next several months is to avoid interfering with the work of the Criminal Recodification Committee.

Chairman Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said in an interview he does not want to move legislation before lawmakers break for the summer that could be at odds with recommendations from the committee charged with reviewing the state's criminal codes.

"I want to avoid doing anything that is going to be disruptive of the work that the Recodification Committee is doing," he said.

However, Sen. Eklund, a member of the ad hoc panel, also said his standing committee is "not going to be paralyzed."

One of his legislative priorities, he said, is a bipartisan bill (HB 164) sponsored by Rep. John Rodgers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville).

The measure, which already cleared the House, allows non-violent ex-offenders to have their records sealed if they have complied with all court ordered sanctions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

"That strikes me as a positive initiative," Sen. Eklund said.

Although acknowledging that the legislation may be too complex to move through the committee before the General Assembly's summer recess, Sen. Eklund said another bill he is very interested in is one that would end the death penalty for those that suffer from certain severe mental illnesses at the time of their crimes.

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland), the bill (SB 162) is facing opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 27, 2016)

"It's a big bill. It's an important bill. I don't know that it's something that we can get done that quickly," Sen. Eklund said, adding that discussions with OPAA are ongoing.

Another measure he hopes to get to the Senate floor that he does not feel would conflict with the work of the Recodification Committee is a bill (HB 151) sponsored by Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Independence) designed to combat cyber stalking. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 7, 2015)

On the House side, Chairman Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), who said he has been in close contact with members of the Recodification Committee, has several legislation priorities he desires to move through the House Judiciary Committee in the coming months. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 29, 2016)

One is a bill (SB 76) sponsored by Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) that specifies the actual servicing of a protective order or consent agreement to the targeted individual isn't necessary for a violation charge if the person knew of the order and "recklessly violated" its terms. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

The measure was introduced after the Ohio Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a man because he had not been officially served with a protective order by an officer of the court.

"There some disagreement between the House and Senate on this issue, but I'm optimistic we can come up with a compromise on this bill," Rep. Butler said.

Another priority, according to Rep. Butler is a bill (SB 215) sponsored by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) and Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley Twp.) that would provide civil immunity to those who break into cars to rescue animals or children. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 10, 2016)

"In general I think the concept is a correct one," Rep. Butler said.

He said he also expects to take up a measure (HB 307) sponsored by Rep. Pelanda designed to provide judges with more discretion in imposing driver's license suspensions for drug-related offenses that did not involve a vehicle. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2015)

Also likely to be a priority for the committee, according to Rep. Butler, is a bill (HB 283) to require DNA testing for certain misdemeanor sex crimes and another bill (HB 268) designed to make it easier for victims of human trafficking to expunge their records.

"I do hope we'll be able to pass those out of committee," Rep. Butler said.

Sunset Review Process About Half Completed; Committee Expected To Wrap Up Work In May

About halfway through the Sunset Review process, dozens of entities have said their services are no longer needed.

"We already have a decent number," said Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), who chairs the Sunset Review Committee.

In fact, a total of 40 entities have asked to be sunset, including the Labor-Management Government Advisory Council, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Council and the Ohio Housing Study Committee.

Sen. Jordan said he expects more entities will ask to be discontinued as the process moves forward. The panel's next meeting is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"There will be more," he said. "Every time we have hearings, there are a number of agencies and boards that ask to be sunset."

Not only does Sen. Jordan anticipate more entities to ask to be sunset, he also expects the committee to make some cuts of its own.

"There are a few members of the committee that are looking at additional boards and commissions to be addressed," he said, adding additional hearings would likely be necessary in that case to allow the entities to justify their continued existence.

When all is said and done, Sen. Jordan said, he does not expect the process to result in substantial savings for taxpayers. He does, however, hope the committee's work will improve the business climate across the state.

"Hopefully beyond saving some money, it will get government out of the way of different businesses and entrepreneurs," he said.

Sen. Jordan, though, would like to go farther.

"I would probably like to see more get cut than will actually get cut. But it's a committee process," he said. "There may be some on the other side that think we are going a little bit too far."

Sen. Jordan said he expects the committee to wrap up its work in May and issue a report some time thereafter.

"I'm not sure if we are actually going to get the bill passed until later in the year," he said.

Once a bill is introduced, Sen. Jordan said he hopes for it to garner widespread support.

"It depends on how far we go," he said. "I would like to get a bill that most people can agree to."

The review process occurs every six years. Nearly 80 boards, commissions and study panels were eliminated through legislation (SB171, 129th General Assembly) enacted at the end of the last Sunset Review process.

**OCMC Subcommittee To Present Congressional Redistricting Proposal
Thursday**

Members of an Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission subcommittee plan to have an updated congressional redistricting proposal formed in time for committee discussion Thursday.

The OCMC's Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee is scheduled to meet at 2:30 p.m. Thursday - the first meeting since a four-member subcommittee began working in February to reach a compromise agreement on revamping the redistricting process in the spirit of Issue 1.

The full committee initially intended to vote on the measure at its February meeting before several last minute amendments halted the process. Chairman Fred Mills then appointed the subcommittee to come to an agreement on those changes within six weeks. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 4, 2016)

Two months later, discussions are ongoing.

But subcommittee member Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said in an interview that subcommittee members and staff should have a proposal finalized in time for the committee to discuss it at Thursday's meeting.

"We'll have something to present to the committee on Thursday on where we are," Sen. Tavares said. "We've had discussions with interested parties, with members of the subcommittee, and kind of gone back and forth."

Although the subcommittee has had no informal meetings since its first meeting in March, she said members and staff have continued their discussion over the last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 9, 2016)

She described the discussions as positive and said she expects the final proposal, which could still be changed by the committee, will honor the spirit of Issue 1, which handed over the legislative mapmaking process to a newly created bipartisan committee.

"We just want to make sure the proposal and our discussion has been focused on how the lines would be drawn and not who is drawing them, which is a good step forward," she said.

Should the subcommittee fail to reach an agreement by Thursday's meeting, members will likely still report to the committee by updating members on its progress.

"The subcommittee will probably present where they are on Thursday and our hopes are we will have something the subcommittee can say is a consensus report because we really want the rules for drawing congressional districts to be specific so it would be difficult for either party to engage in gerrymandering," Sen. Tavares said.

The Thursday unveiling would come just more than a week since Gov. John Kasich's State of the State address, in which the governor doubled down on his call for

lawmakers to embrace change to congressional redistricting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

"When pure politics is what drives these kinds of decisions the result is polarization and division," the governor said in the speech. "I think we've had enough of it."

Still, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) have given indications the General Assembly will be sluggish in picking up discussion of the OCMC proposal if it clears the commission.

Sen. Faber said the issue isn't part of his forthcoming agenda, while Rep. Rosenberger called legislative and congressional redistricting are "apples and oranges." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

Bill Would Create Registry Of Parkinson's Patients To Aid In Research, Treatment

A recently introduced bill would make Ohio the fifth state to track data on people who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

The bill (HB 499), sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City) and Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), would authorize the Department of Health to create a registry of patients with Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and helped write the bill, joined Rep. Grossman at a Statehouse news conference Monday, saying that the database is a step toward improving care and research on the condition.

"This data is useful and absolutely necessary not only in the treatment of Parkinson's disease but also in understanding it and thereafter reaching for a cure," Mr. Mingo said.

If the bill passes, Ohio would be the fifth state to create a database of Parkinson's patients, after Utah, California, Nebraska and Washington.

"It will assist us in gathering data that will help researchers in the state and throughout the nation better understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with that particular disease," Mr. Mingo said. "Understanding that will help us dedicate resources, it will help us identify those who need those resources to the extreme and it will also help us understand, categorically, how it is we should go about finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and otherwise treating it."

About 1 million people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease nationwide, Mr. Mingo said, but it's unclear how many people suffer from the condition in Ohio.

"Whether it's 200,000 or 200, we need to know that and understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with people with Parkinson's disease," he said.

The data would also help shed some light on who the condition affects. Many people who suffer from Parkinson's are elderly, and Mr. Mingo said that means the number of people diagnosed will increase as the population gets older. While the common perception is that it mostly affects, older people, he said it affects many others. Mr. Mingo is 44 and publicly announced his diagnosis in 2013.

The bill would allow ODH to draw up rules regarding exactly how the registry would work. The database would allow ODH to release summary data to show trends and help with research. It's unclear at the moment how much the program would cost.

Mr. Mingo said it would also help patients by helping connect them with others who are going through the same thing.

"When you're initially diagnosed with a condition like this your immediate instinct is to look around within your family, throughout your peers and those you know and try to see who else has this disease and what does it mean for a person's life to walk with it," he said.

Rep. Grossman said the bill is another step toward helping those suffering from Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

"Whatever we can do to help the quality of life for Ohioans in meaningful ways, there should be no hesitancy to be able to achieve that goal," she said.

Graduates, ODE Tout First-Year Results Of Adult Diploma Program

The State Board of Education on Monday recognized graduates of the state's adult diploma program, who were among 78 Ohioans to earn diplomas during the pilot year.

The program, which was created through a previous mid-biennium review budget bill (HB 483, 130th General Assembly), enrolls Ohioans ages 22 and older at community colleges and career technical centers where they can simultaneously work toward a diploma and credentials in an in-demand career field.

Stark State Community College, Pickaway-Ross Joint Vocational School, Miami Valley Career Technical Center, Cuyahoga Community College and Penta Career Center were involved in the pilot program, which began this school year. Three other sites received funding through the state budget and will begin accepting students in July. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 13, 2015)

"This is probably one of the most exciting things I've had the opportunity to participate in," said Steve Gratz, Senior Executive Director for Student Support and Education Options for the Department of Education.

"This is a game-changer for people. Not only for those individuals, for their families and their communities and so I am just so pleased," he added, saying he believes the program is the first of its kind in the country to offer a diploma issued by the State Board of Education.

Program graduates also spoke to the board, sharing emotional stories of how their lives have been changed for the better because of the credentials and job training they've received.

The state covers the cost of the program, reimbursing pilot sites as students hit milestones, Mr. Gratz said. Because the program is competency based, students work at their own paces toward diplomas.

Michelle Profit, who attended Miami Valley Career Tech, told the board that she couldn't focus in GED classes or during tests so she was never able to obtain a certificate after dropping out of high school during her sophomore year.

Twenty-six years later, she said her dreams of finishing high school have come true thanks to the state offering an additional pathway for individuals older than 21 who never graduated.

"Not only has it fulfilled my heart's desire but it has also given my family a brighter tomorrow," Ms. Profit said, adding that she earned nursing credentials through the program and now works at a hospital.

The law requires pilot sites to offer general instruction in conjunction with training for in-demand jobs that have been identified through OhioMeansJobs and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. To be included on the list, the job must pay at least \$12.54 per hour, which is about \$26,000 per year.

Board members offered support for the graduates, who filled the meeting room and encouraged the administration to continue the program into the next biennium.

"What you've accomplished makes you an inspiration to all of us, especially the more than one million Ohioans who don't have a diploma," Board President Tom Gunlock said.

The state budget included \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to continue the expanded pilot program.

In addition to the Adult Diploma Program, the state has two other options for adults who didn't earn a high school diploma: The GED program and the 22+ program, which is tailored to those who are already employed and are just a few credits short of high school graduation.

AEP Names New Ohio COO; EDF Praises Kasich Administration For New Leak Detection Measure For Oil And Gas Facilities...

AEP has selected Senior Vice President and Treasurer Julie Sloat as the next president and chief operating officer of its Ohio utility unit.

Ms. Sloat will begin her new post May 2, the company announced Monday. She will succeed outgoing President and COO Pablo Vegas, who in March accepted an executive leadership position at Columbia Gas of Ohio parent NiSource. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2016)

AEP Executive Vice President and COO Robert Powers, who will oversee Ms. Sloat in her new role, said her regulatory and financial expertise "will serve us well as we continue our focus on making investments that provide more reliable service, develop renewable power resources and give our Ohio customers tools to control how and when they use electricity."

The company said it expects to soon name a new treasurer to succeed Ms. Sloat.

Ms. Sloat has served as senior vice president and treasurer since January 2013, according to the company, where she oversees the company's treasury, trusts and investments. Between 2009-2013, she was vice president of regulatory case management.

"As important as her business acumen, Julie is able to connect with and develop positive, mutually beneficial relationships with people," Mr. Powers said.

"A native of Bolivar, Ohio, and graduate of the Ohio State University, Julie has strong ties with Ohio companies and community organizations. She knows and loves the Buckeye State and will be focused on how AEP Ohio can best serve our customers and benefit Ohio's economy," he said.

Gas Leaks: The Environmental Defense Fund praised Gov. John Kasich's administration for new plans to reduce air pollution stemming from the oil and gas industry.

Earlier this month, the administration announced it plans to require permits for new and modified equipment at compressor stations, which would require those companies to check for leaks quarterly.

The EDF said those checks will help catch leaking Volatile Organic Compounds and methane, which it said contribute to global warming.

"We applaud Gov. Kasich for, once again, stepping forward to deliver clean air protections that Ohio communities deserve and joining other leading states in regulating harmful methane emissions," EDF President Fred Krupp said in a statement. "Today's announcement underscores that fast-growing recognition that, for natural gas to meet its promise as a lower-carbon fuel, methane emissions can't go unchecked."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the natural gas sector could be emitting up to 1.7 million metric tons of methane.

"Requiring operators to systematically check equipment for leaks is a proven, cost-effective way to reduce harmful emissions and associated risks to public health and the environment," Senior State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Manager Andrew Williams said. "We commend the administration for taking this important step and look forward to working with OEPA and other stakeholders to strengthen the proposal."

Ozone Standard: State regulators and interest groups are pushing back on a recent U.S. EPA white paper that they say fails to adequately account for background ozone under a newly lowered federal ozone standard.

Such ozone cannot be controlled by a state because it stems from a natural event, such as a wildfire, or enters the state from another state, according to the Center for Regulatory Solutions.

More than a dozen entities, including state agencies, air quality experts, and business groups have submitted comments protesting what they call "serious flaws" in the paper. They're arguing that the EPA's failure to account for background ozone would "unfairly punish Western states and compromise their ability to comply with the stringent" air quality guidelines adopted last year.

In October, the EPA announced a long-awaited move to lower the federal ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 1, 2015)

"The agency suggests that the relief mechanisms in the statute are sufficient to address the rare instances where background ozone pushes a state out of compliance," according to the center's comments. "To the contrary, our review reveals that neither assertion is accurate or substantiated by the facts. What is clear, however, is that EPA is trying to regulate something for which the science is still not fully understood."

High Court To Hear Public Records Case Next Week; Oral Arguments Set In Five Other Cases

An attorney representing the Ohio Innocence Project next week will argue that the Ohio Supreme Court should overturn a 1994 ruling and compel the Columbus Division of Police to provide him access to the case file of a man convicted of a 2007 murder.

Cincinnati attorney Donald Caster will argue that the court's ruling in *State ex rel. Steckman v. Jackson* should be overturned because of revision to Criminal Rule 16 made in 2010, the court reported.

In *Steckman*, the court ruled that access to law enforcement evidentiary records should be determined by the discovery rules for criminal cases rather than the Ohio Public Records Act.

Mr. Caster will argue that the that 2010 rule change paved the way for the court to overturn the 1994 decision and allow for the examination of investigatory records once a trial begins.

CDP will argue that it is following the law laid out in the *Steckman* case in denying the records request of Mr. Caster.

According to the court, CDP will claim that many of the records are "specific investigatory work product," which includes personal notes, working papers, memoranda and evidentiary findings, all of which were exempted from public record law in a 1997 case.

The Innocence Network and the Ohio Coalition for Open Government have filed briefs in support of Mr. Caster's case.

The court will hear five other cases next week:

- In *Jackson v. State*, a death row inmate will appeal his sentence arguing that the judge did not take mitigating factors into account at a resentencing hearing.
- In *250 Shoup Mill v. Tax Commissioner*, the court will decide if a non-profit real estate company that leases property to a Dayton charter school and is owned by a charter-school corporation is eligible for a property tax exemption.
- In *Jacobson v. Kaforey*, the court will determine if a woman, who as a child was assigned a conservator who then sent her to live with an uncle in Florida, can file a lawsuit claiming the conservator and a hospital violated the law.
- In *Aalim v. State*, A juvenile facing aggravated robbery charges in adult court will argue that the statute allowing his case to be moved from the juvenile system is unconstitutional because the juvenile court judge was not given an opportunity to determine if he would be responsive to rehabilitation in the juvenile system.
- In *State v. Jones*, The court will decide if a Cleveland man convicted of a 1993 more than 20 years later should be subject to sentencing laws at the time of the offense.

The latter two cases, along with the public records case, will be heard on April 20 at Meigs High School in Pomeroy as part of the court's off-site program.

National Report: Ohio's Affordable Housing Lags Behind Needs Of Low Income Renters

A new national analysis of U.S. Census data shows Ohio by and large has just 38 affordable and available housing units for every 100 extremely low income renter households.

But Ohio isn't alone, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which analyzed the data. The Buckeye State joins 49 other states and Washington D.C. in not being able to adequately meet the housing needs of impoverished residents.

The report, called "The Gap: The Affordable Housing Gap Analysis 2016," examines PUMS data - the most detailed level of data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. In doing so, the group determined that "clearly a new approach is needed to address the housing needs of households with the lowest incomes."

That's because the United States has 7.2 million too few affordable rental units available to those considered "extremely low income," which is defined as those with an income at or below 30% of the area median income.

Of those ELI renters, 75% were "severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities," according to the study. In all states, at least 55% of ELI renters put more than half their incomes toward rent and utilities, according to the group.

NLIHC Vice President of Research Andrew Aurand said the study "reveals an alarming reality about housing for extremely low income households."

"What is frustrating is the lack of timely action to address the issue," Mr. Aurand said. "Millions of people in America are living in unaffordable rental homes. They are forced to cut their spending on food, transportation and health to pay rent."

In Ohio, there were 274,346 too few units for ELI households. In all, 71% of ELI households demonstrated a severe housing cost burden.

Of Ohio's three largest metropolitan areas, each had a deficit of housing units per 100 households at or below the ELI threshold. But only Columbus had a number of available units below the national level.

Of those metro areas:

- The Columbus area required 55,675 more affordable housing units to adequately serve extremely low income renters
- The Cincinnati area - including portions of Kentucky and Indiana - had 47,486 too few units for that population
- The Cleveland-Elyria area had 55,579 too few units

Of all states, North Dakota fared the best, but that state still had a shortage with 64 affordable and available units per 100 ELI households. Nevada, in contrast, fared the worst nationally with 17 units per 100 such households.

Sheila Crowley, who recently retired as the group's president and CEO, said more funding to the National Housing Trust Fund would help close the gap.

So would success of the group's ongoing campaign United for Homes, she said, which lobbies for reducing the portion of a mortgage eligible for tax breaks from \$1 million to \$500,000 and changing the deduction to a 15% non-refundable tax credit. She said those moves would save up to \$200 billion in the next decade that could be invested into the trust fund.

"The National Housing Trust Fund was explicitly created to address the most critical housing needs in our country, housing affordable to those with the lowest income," Ms. Crowley said. "We can end homelessness and housing poverty in America without adding a penny to the federal deficit through the United for Homes campaign. All we need is the will."

Education Notes: 44 Applicants Seeking Superintendent Job; AG Says College University Foundations Can Be Audited

The State Board of Education this week will begin reviewing the qualifications of 44 applicants who are looking to be the next superintendent of public instruction.

Board President Tom Gunlock said the applications will be made public on Wednesday and board members will have until April 28 to pick five candidates that they would like to interview.

Ray & Associates, a contracted search firm, is reviewing the applications that were due Friday and will also select the five interviewees, he said.

The goal is to complete interviews in May and select a superintendent shortly after, the board president said.

"Hopefully somebody will come to the forefront and we can get this done. If not, we may have to call people back for additional interviews, but hopefully we can get this thing done sometime in May," Mr. Gunlock said in an interview.

The chosen candidate, who will be paid \$210,000-\$250,000 annually, will replace former superintendent Dick Ross, who retired in December. Lonny Rivera, who has been serving as interim superintendent, said last year he wasn't interested in applying for the permanent post.

Foundation Audits: State Auditor Dave Yost is clear to continue reviewing the financial records of college and university foundations, per an Attorney General's opinion.

AG Mike DeWine recently issued an opinion stating that the foundations, which raise private funds to support the public institutions, are considered public entities and therefore subject to audits.

"We conclude that a public college or university foundation established as a private nonprofit corporation under R.C. Chapter 1702, the primary purpose of which is to solicit and receive, on behalf of a state college or university, gifts, donations, and bequests made for the benefit or use of the state college or university, and which is responsible for keeping records of donations for the state college or university, is an entity established by the laws of this state for the exercise of a function of government, and is, therefore, a public office," according to the legal opinion.

Yost spokesman Benjamin Morrison said the office requested clarification on foundation audits following push back from the University of Toledo and Youngstown State University. The latter hired legal counsel to debate the auditor's characterization of its foundation as a public entity late last year, Mr. Morrison said.

The opinion ensures that the auditor can examine foundation funds as he sees fit.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, that the attorney general agrees that these funds - collected on behalf of universities to benefit universities - are public dollars and subject to the scrutiny of state auditors," Mr. Yost said.

The office has been contracting with audit firms to examine college and university foundations as part of regular audits for more than 20 years, Mr. Morrison said.

Agency Briefs: Elevated Lead Levels Found In Statehouse Drinking Fountain; ODNR Awards Marine Patrol Grants; OEPA: Civil Rights...

The Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board on Monday tested water in the Statehouse after previous testing found elevated lead levels in a single drinking fountain.

Columbus news station NBC4 collected water samples in the building and testing showed that a fountain on the first floor of the Senate building had a "slightly elevated lead level," according to CSRAB.

To verify the tests, CSRAB completed its own and is expecting results to be available by Friday. All 17 drinking fountains and four kitchenettes in the Statehouse and Senate Building were tested.

The drinking fountain that was identified as having elevated lead levels was taken out of service last Friday when the results of the NBC4 tests were provided to officials, CSRAB said.

Natural Resources: The agency's Division of Watercraft will provide 24 communities with more than \$576 million to support marine patrol units.

"The 2016 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants will help local law enforcement agencies provide emergency response to boating-related incidents, conduct routine waterway patrols and purchase safety equipment for use on marine patrol vessels," according to an ODNR release.

As the number of registered recreational watercraft has increased in recent years, boating-related fatalities have decreased, the agency noted.

In 2015, a record 474,601 watercraft were registered, representing a growth of almost 40,000 in the last three years. Boating related fatalities, meanwhile, have decreased 12% since 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: A public hearing is set for April 18 to gather input on a wastewater treatment plant expansion in Grove City.

The Ohio EPA said the expansion that discharges to a tributary of Big Darby Creek "would allow Franklin County to retire older wastewater treatment plants and would not accommodate new development."

The agency will take comments on the plans at 6 p.m. at Pleasant View Middle School, 7255 Knopp Road, Grove City. Comments can also be submitted to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov or EPA-DSW, Attention Permits Processing unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

Civil Rights Commission: The commission is requesting nominations for its 2016 class of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

The 8th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony will recognize Ohioans who have been leaders in human and civil rights issues in the state and have advanced quality and inclusion, according to a commission release.

Nominations are due by July 1 for the ceremony that will be held Oct. 6.

Politics Notebook: Strickland Proposes Five Debates, Portman Campaign Aims To Contact 50K Voters; Buckeye Institute Slams Capital Bill; Planned Parenthood And Ohio Right To Life To Hit Statehouse...

After refusing to debate primary opponent P.G. Sittenfeld, former Gov. Ted Strickland is now calling on Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) to accept at least five debates in his bid to oust the first-term incumbent.

In a letter to Sen. Portman, Mr. Strickland writes that he looks "forward to a spirited and vigorous campaign; one in which we outline our positions on key issues affecting the people of Ohio."

"Towards that end, I would like to propose a series of debates designed to highlight our priorities and the genuine policy differences that exist between us," the letter continues.

Mr. Strickland proposes the debates be held across the state, one in each region. He also called for the debates to be held in August, September and October.

"Collectively, we can demonstrate to the people of Ohio that we are committed to an open and fruitful discussion of the issues and in the process help inform the voters of the choice they face with this election," the letter reads.

Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said in a statement the campaign looks forward to comparing and contrasting the two candidates' records.

"This comes as a welcome surprise given that after a year of refusing to debate, Ted Strickland and his 'invisible' campaign had a change of heart and are now committed to an 'open and fruitful discussion of the issues,'" Ms. Rich said. "As Ted Strickland and his campaign are well aware, we are already receiving debate requests and we look forward to finalizing details with his staff."

Sen. Portman's campaign meanwhile announced a goal of contacting 50,000 voters on April 23 through an effort it has dubbed "Super Saturday."

During a previous "Super Saturday" in October, more than 600 volunteers contacted upwards of 41,000 voters in one day, according to the campaign.

"We are building the most advanced grassroots organization in Ohio history and we are excited about working with thousands of volunteers that know Ohio can't afford to go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio," Ms. Rich said.

"While Ted Strickland runs his 'invisible' campaign, we are proud to work with our impressive team of volunteers and interns who have helped us contact more than 1.5 million voters since last May," he continued. "Ohio voters will have a clear choice in November between moving forward with Rob's pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs, or returning to Ted Strickland's failed policies of higher taxes, more regulations, and bigger government."

Capital Bill: Ahead of the release of the capital bill (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 8, 2016), the Buckeye Institute is slamming the \$150 million likely to be set aside for local projects.

"At a time where critical infrastructure needs are emerging across the state, spending state dollars on items that should be paid for locally is not an optimal use of scarce resources," Greg Lawson, the organization's Statehouse liaison and policy analyst, said in a statement. "Ohio policymakers should focus on what is really needed to help the state prosper while letting local taxpayers make local decisions."

In a report issued, the organization lists what it believes to be the "five most ridiculous capital budget requests of 2016." They include:

- \$10.6 million for a "Triumph of Flight" statute at I-70 and I-75 in Dayton
- \$2 million to renovate an exhibit at the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

- \$1.5 million to refurbish parts of Mapfre Stadium in Columbus
- \$150,000 for the Madcap Productions theater and exhibit hall
- \$50,000-\$100,000 for the Bowling Green Curling Club ice rink

Abortion: Both sides of the abortion debate will converge on the Statehouse this week.

Ohio Right to Life will hold a Legislative Day on Tuesday at the Statehouse in which anti-abortion advocates will lobby for the "Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act."

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio on Wednesday will hold Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, beginning at Trinity Episcopal Church and moving to the Statehouse.

"Ohio, like many states, has seen an increase in barriers to women's access to vital and high quality health care services," the group stated. "This coordinated effort is part of a larger strategy that is being used nationwide to eventually remove access to safe and legal abortion."

Black Lung Measure: Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) on Monday touted the introduction of a bill (HB 510) designed to help protect coal miners who are diagnosed with black lung.

"Dealing with black lung disease is a tough reality for many of Ohio's coal miners who work some of our hardest and most dangerous jobs," he said in a statement. "Providing a fair opportunity for benefits as they deal with this debilitating disease is important for the miners and their families. I hope that my colleagues in the legislature will agree."

The legislation would create a workers' compensation process similar to that in West Virginia for coal miners with black lung.

"A miner who lives in Ohio but worked in West Virginia can currently receive at least partial benefits through West Virginia, but a miner who lives and works in Ohio has a more difficult time being approved for benefits," Rep. Cera said. "This bill will help provide a miner who has contracted black lung to have a better chance of receiving at least some benefit to help them through this difficult time."

Kasich Schedule: Gov. John Kasich has four campaign events scheduled this week in New York ahead of the state's presidential primary next week.

Gov. Kasich held two town hall events on Monday, including one hosted by Fox News' Sean Hannity, along with a press availability.

On Tuesday, the governor is set to deliver a speech in New York City on the "Two Paths" facing the American electorate in 2016.

GOP Dinner: The Ohio Republican Party's 2016 state dinner will feature radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt as the keynote speaker.

The June 4 event will also feature Sen. Portman.

Equal Pay: Democrats on Tuesday will hold a press conference in Akron to coincide with Equal Pay Day.

The event, which will feature Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper and Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, will highlight the gender pay disparity, which Democrats says amounts to about \$10,597 between men and women who work full time in the state.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 12

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Thursday, April 14

Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, House Finance Hearing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, April 12

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Immunization Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse, Columbus, (The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Mobile Technology Lab will be parked and available for tours on the Third Street side of the Senate Bldg. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St. & Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio Library Council news conference on ROI report, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 11

Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Senator Cafaro)

Saturday, June 4

Ohio Republican Party 2016 State Dinner, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, 350 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (See <https://www.ohiogop.org/statedinner/> for more information)

Tuesday, June 7

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Huntington Park, 330 Huntington Park Ln., Columbus, 6 p.m., (Private Reception

at 6 PM - Game starts at 7:05 PM; Contribution Levels: Host - \$1,500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Friend - \$750 to Ohio Senate Democrats)

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House Activity for Monday, April 11, 2016

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 133 AWARENESS MONTH (Beagle, B.) To designate June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

HB 57 MURDER SENTENCING (Maag, R.) To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

HB 165 HUNTING (Green, D.) To allow an individual on active military duty, while on leave or furlough, to hunt deer or wild turkey without procuring a deer or wild turkey permit.

HB 335 COURT JURISDICTION (Craig, H., Grossman, C.) To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

SCR 2 DIABETES RESEARCH (Balderson, T., Gentile, L.) To urge the United States Congress to increase federal funding for research and development involving advanced medical technology used in the treatment of type 1 diabetes.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

State Government: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Young

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 12

Legislative Committees

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 116, 8:30 a.m.

SB 152 **CONTRACTOR LABOR** (Uecker, J.) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 239 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hughes, J.) To designate August 7 as Ohio Purple Heart Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 341 **TRANSPORTATION LAWS** (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB 449 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Amstutz, R.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR 32 **EDUCATION ACT** (McColley, R.) To urge the United States Congress to pass the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.

HB 302 **ANNEXATION** (Henne, M., Butler, J.) To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 413 **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other

changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 455 **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** (Patterson, J., Roechner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 462 **POLICE DISTRICT** (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., **466-5981**), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 303 **DEED PROGRAM** (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 229 **TRUST LAW** (Hambley, S., Bishoff, H.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 175 **TRUST COMPANY LAW** (Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

SB 226 **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., **466-1474**), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., **466-8082**), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 257 **REAL PROPERTY** (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 167 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION** (Sweeney, M.) Regarding the term of a General Assembly member as a member of the Legislative Service Commission. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 275 **PHOTO MONITORING** (Patton, T.) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR 26 **MILITARY BRATPIN** (Sears, B., Dovilla, M.) To express support for the Military BratPin. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 87 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Slesnick, S.) To designate October 7 as Moses Fleetwood Walker Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 31 **STATE ROCK SONG** (Grossman, C., Stinziano, M.) To designate "Hang on Sloopy," which includes the following lyrics, as the official state rock song: Hang on Sloopy, Sloopy hang on; Sloopy lives in a very bad part of town; All the girls I know they try to put my Sloopy down; Sloopy, I don't care what your daddy do; Don't you know little girl, I'm in love with you; Sloopy, let your hair down, let it down on me; Come on Sloopy let your hair down, Girl it down on me. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838**), South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.

SB 27 **FIREFIGHTER CANCER** (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 95 **DENTAL SERVICES** (DeVitis, T.) To prohibit a health insurer from establishing a fee schedule for dental providers that are not covered by any contract or participating provider agreement between the health insurer and the dental provider. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 207 **WORKERS COMPENSATION** (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357**), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584**), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150**), North Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.

HB 178 **WINE SALES** (Manning, N.) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB 342 **WINERY PERMITS** (Young, R.) To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 37 **ALCOHOL POSSESSION** (Duffey, M., Stinziano, M.) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB 60 **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE** (Hall, D., Patmon, B.) To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 1 p.m.

SB 264 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2016 during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 130 **DATA OHIO BOARD** (Hagan, C., Duffey, M.) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 391 **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Terhar, L.) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 483 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (Amstutz, R.) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.

HB 227 **COSMETOLOGY LAW** (Roeqner, K., Reece, A.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 183 **STUDENT TRUSTEES** (Antani, N., Stinziano, M.) To grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 444 **ALCOHOL SAMPLES** (Blessing, L.) To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2 p.m. or after session

HB 172 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.) To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information.

(4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

- **1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending introduction & referral of capital appropriations bill.**

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.

HB 404 SALES TAX REFUNDS (Schaffer, T.) To allow vendors to deduct or apply for a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards used to make purchases from the vendor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 172 BULLION TAXES (Jordan, K.) To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 466 TAX EXEMPTION (Smith, R.) To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 150 HOTEL INTERMEDIARIES (Grossman, C., Scherer, G.) To require hotel intermediaries to collect and remit applicable sales and use tax on the full amount paid for hotel lodging, to require hotel intermediaries to supply customers with itemized invoices, to specify that a hotel intermediary is presumed to have "substantial nexus" with Ohio if the intermediary arranges lodging at Ohio hotels, and to specify that hotels are not liable for the failure of a hotel intermediary to properly collect or remit applicable taxes. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.

HB 432 ESTATE LAW (Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 339 FOREIGN LAW (Young, R.) To prohibit courts, administrative agencies, and arbitrators from applying foreign law to the detriment of constitutional rights under the United States and Ohio constitutions. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 268 HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Hall, D., Dever, J.) To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting

prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

HB 362 **STRANGULATION** (Stinziano, M., Kunze, S.) To prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of another by strangulation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 38 **PRISON TERMS** (Patmon, B.) To create specifications that impose an additional prison term upon an offender who commits a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person and increase the period of commitment to the Department of Youth Services for committing an act that would be a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person if committed by an adult, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled person or an elderly person is the victim of the violation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 451 **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

SB 84 **FLAG DISPLAY** (Coley, B.) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 464 **NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIPS** (Terhar, L., Brinkman, T.) To specify that a National Guard scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment in the National Guard due to enlistment, warrant, commission, or appointment in the United States armed forces is not liable for repayment of the scholarship. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 388 **OVI OFFENSES** (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

SB 123 **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** (Hughes, J.) To allow emergency personnel in public safety vehicles to report traffic law violations under certain circumstances. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

SCR 9 **IRAN AGREEMENT** (Uecker, J.) To urge the Congress of the United States to disapprove the Iranian nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.

- **Reviews of Education Management Information System Advisory Board, English Language Arts Academic Standards Review Committee, Mathematics Academic Standards Review Committee, Science Academic Standards Review Committee, Social Studies Academic Standards Review Committee, Straight A Program Advisory Committee, Straight A Program Governing Board, Advisory Board to Assist and Advise in the Operation of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, Board of Voting Machines Examiners, Workers' Compensation Board of Directors Nominating Committee, Technical Advisory Committee to Assist Director of the Ohio Coal Development Office, Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, Barber Board**

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (**Chr. Derickson, T., 644-5094**), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

HB 298 **DRUG TESTING** (Schaffer, T., Maag, R.) To require applicants for unemployment benefits to submit to a drug test under certain circumstances, to require the director of Job & Family Services to operate an Ohio Works First drug testing pilot program and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 286 **MARRIAGE** (Vitale, N.) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Senate Education (Committee Record) (**Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538**), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

HB 299 **AUTISM SCHOLARSHIPS** (Blessing, L., Rezabek, J.) To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 241 **EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS** (LaRose, F.) With regard to the employment of specified education professionals by city, exempted village, and local school districts. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 252 **CARDIAC ARREST** (Hite, C., Patton, T.) With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (**Chr. Balderson, T.**, **466-8076**), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m. or after session

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Frederick Cash, Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission; James Krimmel and John Petkovsek, Environmental Education Council; Kerry Krugh and David Kimberly, Radiation Advisory Council and Craig Porter, Reclamation Commission

SB 269 **WATER SYSTEMS** (Schiavoni, J.) To require a public water system to provide notice of lead contamination not later than thirty days after becoming aware that lead contamination may effect the system's drinking water, to require the Director of Environmental Protection to provide the notice if the public water system fails to provide it, to require employees of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide continuing assistance to a public water system that fails to provide the required notice of lead contamination, and to require the Director to adopt rules that increase the monitoring frequency for lead and copper under specified circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 118 **HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE SYSTEMS** (Eklund, J.) To authorize a board of county commissioners or municipal legislative authority to elect to withdraw the county or municipal corporation from the application of any rule adopted after January 1, 2014, by the Department of Health governing the design of household sewage treatment systems. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 185 **IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (Seitz, B.) To revise the law governing special improvement districts created for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Agency Calendar

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Air Quality Development Authority, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1718, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council, 77 South High Street, Room 1960, Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Housing Ohio 2016 Conference, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, 75 E. State St., Columbus

Ohio Bankers League lobby day
Ohio Right to Life legislative day

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to Friends of Kris Jordan)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Bowling Green State University Statehouse Falcons reception, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (RSVP to batesdc@bgsu.edu)

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$2,500; Chair \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual \$350 to Hackett for Ohio)

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$2,500; Event Sponsor \$1,000; Individual \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Chintz Room, 121 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Romanchuk for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Capital Club, Scarlet & Gray Room, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Ron Young)

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Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 6:16 PM
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Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, April 11, 2016
Attachments: Apr11.htm; Apr11House.htm; 160411dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Monday, April 11, 2016

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Volume #85, Report #69 -- Monday, April 11, 2016

House, Senate Chairs Set Criminal Justice Legislative Priorities For Coming Months

The legislator who leads the Senate Criminal Justice Committee said his goal for the group over the next several months is to avoid interfering with the work of the Criminal Recodification Committee.

Chairman Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said in an interview he does not want to move legislation before lawmakers break for the summer that could be at odds with recommendations from the committee charged with reviewing the state's criminal codes.

"I want to avoid doing anything that is going to be disruptive of the work that the Recodification Committee is doing," he said.

However, Sen. Eklund, a member of the ad hoc panel, also said his standing committee is "not going to be paralyzed."

One of his legislative priorities, he said, is a bipartisan bill (HB 164) sponsored by Rep. John Rodgers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville).

The measure, which already cleared the House, allows non-violent ex-offenders to have their records sealed if they have complied with all court ordered sanctions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

"That strikes me as a positive initiative," Sen. Eklund said.

Although acknowledging that the legislation may be too complex to move through the committee before the General Assembly's summer recess, Sen. Eklund said another bill he is very interested in is one that would end the death penalty for those that suffer from certain severe mental illnesses at the time of their crimes.

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland), the bill (SB 162) is facing opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 27, 2016)

"It's a big bill. It's an important bill. I don't know that it's something that we can get done that quickly," Sen. Eklund said, adding that discussions with OPAA are ongoing.

Another measure he hopes to get to the Senate floor that he does not feel would conflict with the work of the Recodification Committee is a bill (HB 151) sponsored by Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Independence) designed to combat cyber stalking. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 7, 2015)

On the House side, Chairman Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), who said he has been in close contact with members of the Recodification Committee, has several legislation priorities he desires to move through the House Judiciary Committee in the coming months. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 29, 2016)

One is a bill (SB 76) sponsored by Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) that specifies the actual servicing of a protective order or consent agreement to the targeted individual isn't necessary for a violation charge if the person knew of the order and "recklessly violated" its terms. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

The measure was introduced after the Ohio Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a man because he had not been officially served with a protective order by an officer of the court.

"There some disagreement between the House and Senate on this issue, but I'm optimistic we can come up with a compromise on this bill," Rep. Butler said.

Another priority, according to Rep. Butler is a bill (SB 215) sponsored by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) and Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley Twp.) that would provide civil immunity to those who break into cars to rescue animals or children. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 10, 2016)

"In general I think the concept is a correct one," Rep. Butler said.

He said he also expects to take up a measure (HB 307) sponsored by Rep. Pelanda designed to provide judges with more discretion in imposing driver's license suspensions for drug-related offenses that did not involve a vehicle. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2015)

Also likely to be a priority for the committee, according to Rep. Butler, is a bill (HB 283) to require DNA testing for certain misdemeanor sex crimes and another bill (HB 268) designed to make it easier for victims of human trafficking to expunge their records.

"I do hope we'll be able to pass those out of committee," Rep. Butler said.

Sunset Review Process About Half Completed; Committee Expected To Wrap Up Work In May

About halfway through the Sunset Review process, dozens of entities have said their services are no longer needed.

"We already have a decent number," said Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), who chairs the Sunset Review Committee.

In fact, a total of 40 entities have asked to be sunset, including the Labor-Management Government Advisory Council, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Council and the Ohio Housing Study Committee.

Sen. Jordan said he expects more entities will ask to be discontinued as the process moves forward. The panel's next meeting is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"There will be more," he said. "Every time we have hearings, there are a number of agencies and boards that ask to be sunset."

Not only does Sen. Jordan anticipate more entities to ask to be sunset, he also expects the committee to make some cuts of its own.

"There are a few members of the committee that are looking at additional boards and commissions to be addressed," he said, adding additional hearings would likely be necessary in that case to allow the entities to justify their continued existence.

When all is said and done, Sen. Jordan said, he does not expect the process to result in substantial savings for taxpayers. He does, however, hope the committee's work will improve the business climate across the state.

"Hopefully beyond saving some money, it will get government out of the way of different businesses and entrepreneurs," he said.

Sen. Jordan, though, would like to go farther.

"I would probably like to see more get cut than will actually get cut. But it's a committee process," he said. "There may be some on the other side that think we are going a little bit too far."

Sen. Jordan said he expects the committee to wrap up its work in May and issue a report some time thereafter.

"I'm not sure if we are actually going to get the bill passed until later in the year," he said.

Once a bill is introduced, Sen. Jordan said he hopes for it to garner widespread support.

"It depends on how far we go," he said. "I would like to get a bill that most people can agree to."

The review process occurs every six years. Nearly 80 boards, commissions and study panels were eliminated through legislation (SB171, 129th General Assembly) enacted at the end of the last Sunset Review process.

**OCMC Subcommittee To Present Congressional Redistricting Proposal
Thursday**

Members of an Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission subcommittee plan to have an updated congressional redistricting proposal formed in time for committee discussion Thursday.

The OCMC's Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee is scheduled to meet at 2:30 p.m. Thursday - the first meeting since a four-member subcommittee began working in February to reach a compromise agreement on revamping the redistricting process in the spirit of Issue 1.

The full committee initially intended to vote on the measure at its February meeting before several last minute amendments halted the process. Chairman Fred Mills then appointed the subcommittee to come to an agreement on those changes within six weeks. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 4, 2016)

Two months later, discussions are ongoing.

But subcommittee member Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said in an interview that subcommittee members and staff should have a proposal finalized in time for the committee to discuss it at Thursday's meeting.

"We'll have something to present to the committee on Thursday on where we are," Sen. Tavares said. "We've had discussions with interested parties, with members of the subcommittee, and kind of gone back and forth."

Although the subcommittee has had no informal meetings since its first meeting in March, she said members and staff have continued their discussion over the last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 9, 2016)

She described the discussions as positive and said she expects the final proposal, which could still be changed by the committee, will honor the spirit of Issue 1, which handed over the legislative mapmaking process to a newly created bipartisan committee.

"We just want to make sure the proposal and our discussion has been focused on how the lines would be drawn and not who is drawing them, which is a good step forward," she said.

Should the subcommittee fail to reach an agreement by Thursday's meeting, members will likely still report to the committee by updating members on its progress.

"The subcommittee will probably present where they are on Thursday and our hopes are we will have something the subcommittee can say is a consensus report because we really want the rules for drawing congressional districts to be specific so it would be difficult for either party to engage in gerrymandering," Sen. Tavares said.

The Thursday unveiling would come just more than a week since Gov. John Kasich's State of the State address, in which the governor doubled down on his call for

lawmakers to embrace change to congressional redistricting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

"When pure politics is what drives these kinds of decisions the result is polarization and division," the governor said in the speech. "I think we've had enough of it."

Still, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) have given indications the General Assembly will be sluggish in picking up discussion of the OCMC proposal if it clears the commission.

Sen. Faber said the issue isn't part of his forthcoming agenda, while Rep. Rosenberger called legislative and congressional redistricting are "apples and oranges." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

Bill Would Create Registry Of Parkinson's Patients To Aid In Research, Treatment

A recently introduced bill would make Ohio the fifth state to track data on people who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

The bill (HB 499), sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City) and Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), would authorize the Department of Health to create a registry of patients with Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and helped write the bill, joined Rep. Grossman at a Statehouse news conference Monday, saying that the database is a step toward improving care and research on the condition.

"This data is useful and absolutely necessary not only in the treatment of Parkinson's disease but also in understanding it and thereafter reaching for a cure," Mr. Mingo said.

If the bill passes, Ohio would be the fifth state to create a database of Parkinson's patients, after Utah, California, Nebraska and Washington.

"It will assist us in gathering data that will help researchers in the state and throughout the nation better understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with that particular disease," Mr. Mingo said. "Understanding that will help us dedicate resources, it will help us identify those who need those resources to the extreme and it will also help us understand, categorically, how it is we should go about finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and otherwise treating it."

About 1 million people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease nationwide, Mr. Mingo said, but it's unclear how many people suffer from the condition in Ohio.

"Whether it's 200,000 or 200, we need to know that and understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with people with Parkinson's disease," he said.

The data would also help shed some light on who the condition affects. Many people who suffer from Parkinson's are elderly, and Mr. Mingo said that means the number of people diagnosed will increase as the population gets older. While the common perception is that it mostly affects, older people, he said it affects many others. Mr. Mingo is 44 and publicly announced his diagnosis in 2013.

The bill would allow ODH to draw up rules regarding exactly how the registry would work. The database would allow ODH to release summary data to show trends and help with research. It's unclear at the moment how much the program would cost.

Mr. Mingo said it would also help patients by helping connect them with others who are going through the same thing.

"When you're initially diagnosed with a condition like this your immediate instinct is to look around within your family, throughout your peers and those you know and try to see who else has this disease and what does it mean for a person's life to walk with it," he said.

Rep. Grossman said the bill is another step toward helping those suffering from Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

"Whatever we can do to help the quality of life for Ohioans in meaningful ways, there should be no hesitancy to be able to achieve that goal," she said.

Graduates, ODE Tout First-Year Results Of Adult Diploma Program

The State Board of Education on Monday recognized graduates of the state's adult diploma program, who were among 78 Ohioans to earn diplomas during the pilot year.

The program, which was created through a previous mid-biennium review budget bill (HB 483, 130th General Assembly), enrolls Ohioans ages 22 and older at community colleges and career technical centers where they can simultaneously work toward a diploma and credentials in an in-demand career field.

Stark State Community College, Pickaway-Ross Joint Vocational School, Miami Valley Career Technical Center, Cuyahoga Community College and Penta Career Center were involved in the pilot program, which began this school year. Three other sites received funding through the state budget and will begin accepting students in July. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 13, 2015)

"This is probably one of the most exciting things I've had the opportunity to participate in," said Steve Gratz, Senior Executive Director for Student Support and Education Options for the Department of Education.

"This is a game-changer for people. Not only for those individuals, for their families and their communities and so I am just so pleased," he added, saying he believes the program is the first of its kind in the country to offer a diploma issued by the State Board of Education.

Program graduates also spoke to the board, sharing emotional stories of how their lives have been changed for the better because of the credentials and job training they've received.

The state covers the cost of the program, reimbursing pilot sites as students hit milestones, Mr. Gratz said. Because the program is competency based, students work at their own paces toward diplomas.

Michelle Profit, who attended Miami Valley Career Tech, told the board that she couldn't focus in GED classes or during tests so she was never able to obtain a certificate after dropping out of high school during her sophomore year.

Twenty-six years later, she said her dreams of finishing high school have come true thanks to the state offering an additional pathway for individuals older than 21 who never graduated.

"Not only has it fulfilled my heart's desire but it has also given my family a brighter tomorrow," Ms. Profit said, adding that she earned nursing credentials through the program and now works at a hospital.

The law requires pilot sites to offer general instruction in conjunction with training for in-demand jobs that have been identified through OhioMeansJobs and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. To be included on the list, the job must pay at least \$12.54 per hour, which is about \$26,000 per year.

Board members offered support for the graduates, who filled the meeting room and encouraged the administration to continue the program into the next biennium.

"What you've accomplished makes you an inspiration to all of us, especially the more than one million Ohioans who don't have a diploma," Board President Tom Gunlock said.

The state budget included \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to continue the expanded pilot program.

In addition to the Adult Diploma Program, the state has two other options for adults who didn't earn a high school diploma: The GED program and the 22+ program, which is tailored to those who are already employed and are just a few credits short of high school graduation.

AEP Names New Ohio COO; EDF Praises Kasich Administration For New Leak Detection Measure For Oil And Gas Facilities...

AEP has selected Senior Vice President and Treasurer Julie Sloat as the next president and chief operating officer of its Ohio utility unit.

Ms. Sloat will begin her new post May 2, the company announced Monday. She will succeed outgoing President and COO Pablo Vegas, who in March accepted an executive leadership position at Columbia Gas of Ohio parent NiSource. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2016)

AEP Executive Vice President and COO Robert Powers, who will oversee Ms. Sloat in her new role, said her regulatory and financial expertise "will serve us well as we continue our focus on making investments that provide more reliable service, develop renewable power resources and give our Ohio customers tools to control how and when they use electricity."

The company said it expects to soon name a new treasurer to succeed Ms. Sloat.

Ms. Sloat has served as senior vice president and treasurer since January 2013, according to the company, where she oversees the company's treasury, trusts and investments. Between 2009-2013, she was vice president of regulatory case management.

"As important as her business acumen, Julie is able to connect with and develop positive, mutually beneficial relationships with people," Mr. Powers said.

"A native of Bolivar, Ohio, and graduate of the Ohio State University, Julie has strong ties with Ohio companies and community organizations. She knows and loves the Buckeye State and will be focused on how AEP Ohio can best serve our customers and benefit Ohio's economy," he said.

Gas Leaks: The Environmental Defense Fund praised Gov. John Kasich's administration for new plans to reduce air pollution stemming from the oil and gas industry.

Earlier this month, the administration announced it plans to require permits for new and modified equipment at compressor stations, which would require those companies to check for leaks quarterly.

The EDF said those checks will help catch leaking Volatile Organic Compounds and methane, which it said contribute to global warming.

"We applaud Gov. Kasich for, once again, stepping forward to deliver clean air protections that Ohio communities deserve and joining other leading states in regulating harmful methane emissions," EDF President Fred Krupp said in a statement. "Today's announcement underscores that fast-growing recognition that, for natural gas to meet its promise as a lower-carbon fuel, methane emissions can't go unchecked."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the natural gas sector could be emitting up to 1.7 million metric tons of methane.

"Requiring operators to systematically check equipment for leaks is a proven, cost-effective way to reduce harmful emissions and associated risks to public health and the environment," Senior State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Manager Andrew Williams said. "We commend the administration for taking this important step and look forward to working with OEPA and other stakeholders to strengthen the proposal."

Ozone Standard: State regulators and interest groups are pushing back on a recent U.S. EPA white paper that they say fails to adequately account for background ozone under a newly lowered federal ozone standard.

Such ozone cannot be controlled by a state because it stems from a natural event, such as a wildfire, or enters the state from another state, according to the Center for Regulatory Solutions.

More than a dozen entities, including state agencies, air quality experts, and business groups have submitted comments protesting what they call "serious flaws" in the paper. They're arguing that the EPA's failure to account for background ozone would "unfairly punish Western states and compromise their ability to comply with the stringent" air quality guidelines adopted last year.

In October, the EPA announced a long-awaited move to lower the federal ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 1, 2015)

"The agency suggests that the relief mechanisms in the statute are sufficient to address the rare instances where background ozone pushes a state out of compliance," according to the center's comments. "To the contrary, our review reveals that neither assertion is accurate or substantiated by the facts. What is clear, however, is that EPA is trying to regulate something for which the science is still not fully understood."

High Court To Hear Public Records Case Next Week; Oral Arguments Set In Five Other Cases

An attorney representing the Ohio Innocence Project next week will argue that the Ohio Supreme Court should overturn a 1994 ruling and compel the Columbus Division of Police to provide him access to the case file of a man convicted of a 2007 murder.

Cincinnati attorney Donald Caster will argue that the court's ruling in *State ex rel. Steckman v. Jackson* should be overturned because of revision to Criminal Rule 16 made in 2010, the court reported.

In *Steckman*, the court ruled that access to law enforcement evidentiary records should be determined by the discovery rules for criminal cases rather than the Ohio Public Records Act.

Mr. Caster will argue that the that 2010 rule change paved the way for the court to overturn the 1994 decision and allow for the examination of investigatory records once a trial begins.

CDP will argue that it is following the law laid out in the *Steckman* case in denying the records request of Mr. Caster.

According to the court, CDP will claim that many of the records are "specific investigatory work product," which includes personal notes, working papers, memoranda and evidentiary findings, all of which were exempted from public record law in a 1997 case.

The Innocence Network and the Ohio Coalition for Open Government have filed briefs in support of Mr. Caster's case.

The court will hear five other cases next week:

- In *Jackson v. State*, a death row inmate will appeal his sentence arguing that the judge did not take mitigating factors into account at a resentencing hearing.
- In *250 Shoup Mill v. Tax Commissioner*, the court will decide if a non-profit real estate company that leases property to a Dayton charter school and is owned by a charter-school corporation is eligible for a property tax exemption.
- In *Jacobson v. Kaforey*, the court will determine if a woman, who as a child was assigned a conservator who then sent her to live with an uncle in Florida, can file a lawsuit claiming the conservator and a hospital violated the law.
- In *Aalim v. State*, A juvenile facing aggravated robbery charges in adult court will argue that the statute allowing his case to be moved from the juvenile system is unconstitutional because the juvenile court judge was not given an opportunity to determine if he would be responsive to rehabilitation in the juvenile system.
- In *State v. Jones*, The court will decide if a Cleveland man convicted of a 1993 more than 20 years later should be subject to sentencing laws at the time of the offense.

The latter two cases, along with the public records case, will be heard on April 20 at Meigs High School in Pomeroy as part of the court's off-site program.

National Report: Ohio's Affordable Housing Lags Behind Needs Of Low Income Renters

A new national analysis of U.S. Census data shows Ohio by and large has just 38 affordable and available housing units for every 100 extremely low income renter households.

But Ohio isn't alone, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which analyzed the data. The Buckeye State joins 49 other states and Washington D.C. in not being able to adequately meet the housing needs of impoverished residents.

The report, called "The Gap: The Affordable Housing Gap Analysis 2016," examines PUMS data - the most detailed level of data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. In doing so, the group determined that "clearly a new approach is needed to address the housing needs of households with the lowest incomes."

That's because the United States has 7.2 million too few affordable rental units available to those considered "extremely low income," which is defined as those with an income at or below 30% of the area median income.

Of those ELI renters, 75% were "severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities," according to the study. In all states, at least 55% of ELI renters put more than half their incomes toward rent and utilities, according to the group.

NLIHC Vice President of Research Andrew Aurand said the study "reveals an alarming reality about housing for extremely low income households."

"What is frustrating is the lack of timely action to address the issue," Mr. Aurand said. "Millions of people in America are living in unaffordable rental homes. They are forced to cut their spending on food, transportation and health to pay rent."

In Ohio, there were 274,346 too few units for ELI households. In all, 71% of ELI households demonstrated a severe housing cost burden.

Of Ohio's three largest metropolitan areas, each had a deficit of housing units per 100 households at or below the ELI threshold. But only Columbus had a number of available units below the national level.

Of those metro areas:

- The Columbus area required 55,675 more affordable housing units to adequately serve extremely low income renters
- The Cincinnati area - including portions of Kentucky and Indiana - had 47,486 too few units for that population
- The Cleveland-Elyria area had 55,579 too few units

Of all states, North Dakota fared the best, but that state still had a shortage with 64 affordable and available units per 100 ELI households. Nevada, in contrast, fared the worst nationally with 17 units per 100 such households.

Sheila Crowley, who recently retired as the group's president and CEO, said more funding to the National Housing Trust Fund would help close the gap.

So would success of the group's ongoing campaign United for Homes, she said, which lobbies for reducing the portion of a mortgage eligible for tax breaks from \$1 million to \$500,000 and changing the deduction to a 15% non-refundable tax credit. She said those moves would save up to \$200 billion in the next decade that could be invested into the trust fund.

"The National Housing Trust Fund was explicitly created to address the most critical housing needs in our country, housing affordable to those with the lowest income," Ms. Crowley said. "We can end homelessness and housing poverty in America without adding a penny to the federal deficit through the United for Homes campaign. All we need is the will."

Education Notes- 44 Applicants Seeking Superintendent Job; AG Says College, University Foundations Can Be Audited

The State Board of Education this week will begin reviewing the qualifications of 44 applicants who are looking to be the next superintendent of public instruction.

Board President Tom Gunlock said the applications will be made public on Wednesday and board members will have until April 28 to pick five candidates that they would like to interview.

Ray & Associates, a contracted search firm, is reviewing the applications that were due Friday and will also select the five interviewees, he said.

The goal is to complete interviews in May and select a superintendent shortly after, the board president said.

"Hopefully somebody will come to the forefront and we can get this done. If not, we may have to call people back for additional interviews, but hopefully we can get this thing done sometime in May," Mr. Gunlock said in an interview.

The chosen candidate, who will be paid \$210,000-\$250,000 annually, will replace former superintendent Dick Ross, who retired in December. Lonny Rivera, who has been serving as interim superintendent, said last year he wasn't interested in applying for the permanent post.

Foundation Audits: State Auditor Dave Yost is clear to continue reviewing the financial records of college and university foundations, per an Attorney General's opinion.

AG Mike DeWine recently issued an opinion stating that the foundations, which raise private funds to support the public institutions, are considered public entities and therefore subject to audits.

"We conclude that a public college or university foundation established as a private nonprofit corporation under R.C. Chapter 1702, the primary purpose of which is to solicit and receive, on behalf of a state college or university, gifts, donations, and bequests made for the benefit or use of the state college or university, and which is responsible for keeping records of donations for the state college or university, is an entity established by the laws of this state for the exercise of a function of government, and is, therefore, a public office," according to the legal opinion.

Yost spokesman Benjamin Morrison said the office requested clarification on foundation audits following push back from the University of Toledo and Youngstown State University. The latter hired legal counsel to debate the auditor's characterization of its foundation as a public entity late last year, Mr. Morrison said.

The opinion ensures that the auditor can examine foundation funds as he sees fit.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, that the attorney general agrees that these funds - collected on behalf of universities to benefit universities - are public dollars and subject to the scrutiny of state auditors," Mr. Yost said.

The office has been contracting with audit firms to examine college and university foundations as part of regular audits for more than 20 years, Mr. Morrison said.

Agency Briefs: Elevated Lead Levels Found In Statehouse Drinking Fountain; ODNR Awards Marine Patrol Grants; OEPA; Civil Rights...

The Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board on Monday tested water in the Statehouse after previous testing found elevated lead levels in a single drinking fountain.

Columbus news station NBC4 collected water samples in the building and testing showed that a fountain on the first floor of the Senate building had a "slightly elevated lead level," according to CSRAB.

To verify the tests, CSRAB completed its own and is expecting results to be available by Friday. All 17 drinking fountains and four kitchenettes in the Statehouse and Senate Building were tested.

The drinking fountain that was identified as having elevated lead levels was taken out of service last Friday when the results of the NBC4 tests were provided to officials, CSRAB said.

Natural Resources: The agency's Division of Watercraft will provide 24 communities with more than \$576 million to support marine patrol units.

"The 2016 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants will help local law enforcement agencies provide emergency response to boating-related incidents, conduct routine waterway patrols and purchase safety equipment for use on marine patrol vessels," according to an ODNR release.

As the number of registered recreational watercraft has increased in recent years, boating-related fatalities have decreased, the agency noted.

In 2015, a record 474,601 watercraft were registered, representing a growth of almost 40,000 in the last three years. Boating related fatalities, meanwhile, have decreased 12% since 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: A public hearing is set for April 18 to gather input on a wastewater treatment plant expansion in Grove City.

The Ohio EPA said the expansion that discharges to a tributary of Big Darby Creek "would allow Franklin County to retire older wastewater treatment plants and would not accommodate new development."

The agency will take comments on the plans at 6 p.m. at Pleasant View Middle School, 7255 Knopp Road, Grove City. Comments can also be submitted to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov or EPA-DSW, Attention Permits Processing unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

Civil Rights Commission: The commission is requesting nominations for its 2016 class of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

The 8th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony will recognize Ohioans who have been leaders in human and civil rights issues in the state and have advanced quality and inclusion, according to a commission release.

Nominations are due by July 1 for the ceremony that will be held Oct. 6.

Politics Notebook: Strickland Proposes Five Debates; Portman Campaign Aims To Contact 50K Voters; Buckeye Institute Slams Capital Bill; Planned Parenthood And Ohio Right To Life To Hit Statehouse...

After refusing to debate primary opponent P.G. Sittenfeld, former Gov. Ted Strickland is now calling on Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) to accept at least five debates in his bid to oust the first-term incumbent.

In a letter to Sen. Portman, Mr. Strickland writes that he looks "forward to a spirited and vigorous campaign; one in which we outline our positions on key issues affecting the people of Ohio."

"Towards that end, I would like to propose a series of debates designed to highlight our priorities and the genuine policy differences that exist between us," the letter continues.

Mr. Strickland proposes the debates be held across the state, one in each region. He also called for the debates to be held in August, September and October.

"Collectively, we can demonstrate to the people of Ohio that we are committed to an open and fruitful discussion of the issues and in the process help inform the voters of the choice they face with this election," the letter reads.

Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said in a statement the campaign looks forward to comparing and contrasting the two candidates' records.

"This comes as a welcome surprise given that after a year of refusing to debate, Ted Strickland and his 'invisible' campaign had a change of heart and are now committed to an 'open and fruitful discussion of the issues,'" Ms. Rich said. "As Ted Strickland and his campaign are well aware, we are already receiving debate requests and we look forward to finalizing details with his staff."

Sen. Portman's campaign meanwhile announced a goal of contacting 50,000 voters on April 23 through an effort it has dubbed "Super Saturday."

During a previous "Super Saturday" in October, more than 600 volunteers contacted upwards of 41,000 voters in one day, according to the campaign.

"We are building the most advanced grassroots organization in Ohio history and we are excited about working with thousands of volunteers that know Ohio can't afford to go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio," Ms. Rich said.

"While Ted Strickland runs his 'invisible' campaign, we are proud to work with our impressive team of volunteers and interns who have helped us contact more than 1.5 million voters since last May," he continued. "Ohio voters will have a clear choice in November between moving forward with Rob's pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs, or returning to Ted Strickland's failed policies of higher taxes, more regulations, and bigger government."

Capital Bill: Ahead of the release of the capital bill (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 8, 2016), the Buckeye Institute is slamming the \$150 million likely to be set aside for local projects.

"At a time where critical infrastructure needs are emerging across the state, spending state dollars on items that should be paid for locally is not an optimal use of scarce resources," Greg Lawson, the organization's Statehouse liaison and policy analyst, said in a statement. "Ohio policymakers should focus on what is really needed to help the state prosper while letting local taxpayers make local decisions."

In a report issued, the organization lists what it believes to be the "five most ridiculous capital budget requests of 2016." They include:

- \$10.6 million for a "Triumph of Flight" statute at I-70 and I-75 in Dayton
- \$2 million to renovate an exhibit at the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

- \$1.5 million to refurbish parts of Mapfre Stadium in Columbus
- \$150,000 for the Madcap Productions theater and exhibit hall
- \$50,000-\$100,000 for the Bowling Green Curling Club ice rink

Abortion: Both sides of the abortion debate will converge on the Statehouse this week.

Ohio Right to Life will hold a Legislative Day on Tuesday at the Statehouse in which anti-abortion advocates will lobby for the "Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act."

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio on Wednesday will hold Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, beginning at Trinity Episcopal Church and moving to the Statehouse.

"Ohio, like many states, has seen an increase in barriers to women's access to vital and high quality health care services," the group stated. "This coordinated effort is part of a larger strategy that is being used nationwide to eventually remove access to safe and legal abortion."

Black Lung Measure: Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) on Monday touted the introduction of a bill (HB 510) designed to help protect coal miners who are diagnosed with black lung.

"Dealing with black lung disease is a tough reality for many of Ohio's coal miners who work some of our hardest and most dangerous jobs," he said in a statement. "Providing a fair opportunity for benefits as they deal with this debilitating disease is important for the miners and their families. I hope that my colleagues in the legislature will agree."

The legislation would create a workers' compensation process similar to that in West Virginia for coal miners with black lung.

"A miner who lives in Ohio but worked in West Virginia can currently receive at least partial benefits through West Virginia, but a miner who lives and works in Ohio has a more difficult time being approved for benefits," Rep. Cera said. "This bill will help provide a miner who has contracted black lung to have a better chance of receiving at least some benefit to help them through this difficult time."

Kasich Schedule: Gov. John Kasich has four campaign events scheduled this week in New York ahead of the state's presidential primary next week.

Gov. Kasich held two town hall events on Monday, including one hosted by Fox News' Sean Hannity, along with a press availability.

On Tuesday, the governor is set to deliver a speech in New York City on the "Two Paths" facing the American electorate in 2016.

GOP Dinner: The Ohio Republican Party's 2016 state dinner will feature radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt as the keynote speaker.

The June 4 event will also feature Sen. Portman.

Equal Pay: Democrats on Tuesday will hold a press conference in Akron to coincide with Equal Pay Day.

The event, which will feature Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper and Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, will highlight the gender pay disparity, which Democrats says amounts to about \$10,597 between men and women who work full time in the state.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 12

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Thursday, April 14

Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, House Finance Hearing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, April 12

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Immunization Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse, Columbus, (The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Mobile Technology Lab will be parked and available for tours on the Third Street side of the Senate Bldg. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St. & Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio Library Council news conference on ROI report, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 11

Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Senator Cafaro)

Saturday, June 4

Ohio Republican Party 2016 State Dinner, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, 350 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (See <https://www.ohiogop.org/statedinner/> for more information)

Tuesday, June 7

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Huntington Park, 330 Huntington Park Ln., Columbus, 6 p.m., (Private Reception

at 6 PM - Game starts at 7:05 PM; Contribution Levels: Host - \$1,500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Friend - \$750 to Ohio Senate Democrats)

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House Activity for Monday, April 11, 2016

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 133 ■ **AWARENESS MONTH** (Beagle, B.) To designate June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

HB 57 ■ **MURDER SENTENCING** (Maaq, R.) To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

HB 165 ■ **HUNTING** (Green, D.) To allow an individual on active military duty, while on leave or furlough, to hunt deer or wild turkey without procuring a deer or wild turkey permit.

HB 335 ■ **COURT JURISDICTION** (Craig, H., Grossman, C.) To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

SCR 2 ■ **DIABETES RESEARCH** (Balderson, T., Gentile, L.) To urge the United States Congress to increase federal funding for research and development involving advanced medical technology used in the treatment of type 1 diabetes.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

State Government: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Young

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 12

Legislative Committees

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 116, 8:30 a.m.

SB 152 **CONTRACTOR LABOR** (Uecker, J.) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 239 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hughes, J.) To designate August 7 as Ohio Purple Heart Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 341 **TRANSPORTATION LAWS** (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB 449 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Amstutz, R.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR 32 **EDUCATION ACT** (McColley, R.) To urge the United States Congress to pass the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.

HB 302 **ANNEXATION** (Henne, M., Butler, J.) To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 413 **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other

changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 455 **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** (Patterson, J., Roechner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 462 **POLICE DISTRICT** (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981**), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 303 **DEED PROGRAM** (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 229 **TRUST LAW** (Hambley, S., Bishoff, H.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 175 **TRUST COMPANY LAW** (Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

SB 226 **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474**), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (**Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082**), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 257 **REAL PROPERTY** (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 167 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION** (Sweeney, M.) Regarding the term of a General Assembly member as a member of the Legislative Service Commission. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 275 **PHOTO MONITORING** (Patton, T.) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR 26 **MILITARY BRATPIN** (Sears, B., Dovilla, M.) To express support for the Military BratPin. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 87 **DAY DESIGNATION** (Slesnick, S.) To designate October 7 as Moses Fleetwood Walker Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 31 **STATE ROCK SONG** (Grossman, C., Stinziano, M.) To designate "Hang on Sloopy," which includes the following lyrics, as the official state rock song: Hang on Sloopy, Sloopy hang on; Sloopy lives in a very bad part of town; All the girls I know they try to put my Sloopy down; Sloopy, I don't care what your daddy do; Don't you know little girl, I'm in love with you; Sloopy, let your hair down, let it down on me; Come on Sloopy let your hair down, Girl it down on me. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838**), South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.

SB 27 **FIREFIGHTER CANCER** (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 95 **DENTAL SERVICES** (DeVitis, T.) To prohibit a health insurer from establishing a fee schedule for dental providers that are not covered by any contract or participating provider agreement between the health insurer and the dental provider. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 207 **WORKERS COMPENSATION** (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357**), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584**), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150**), North Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.

HB 178 **WINE SALES** (Manning, N.) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)

HB 342 **WINERY PERMITS** (Young, R.) To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 37 **ALCOHOL POSSESSION** (Duffey, M., Stinziano, M.) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB 60 **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE** (Hall, D., Patmon, B.) To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 1 p.m.

SB 264 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2016 during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 130 **DATA OHIO BOARD** (Hagan, C., Duffey, M.) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 391 **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Terhar, L.) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 483 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (Amstutz, R.) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.

HB 227 **COSMETOLOGY LAW** (Roegner, K., Reece, A.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 183 **STUDENT TRUSTEES** (Antani, N., Stinziano, M.) To grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 444 **ALCOHOL SAMPLES** (Blessing, L.) To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2 p.m. or after session

HB 172 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.) To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information.

(4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

- **1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending introduction & referral of capital appropriations bill.**

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.

HB 404 SALES TAX REFUNDS (Schaffer, T.) To allow vendors to deduct or apply for a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards used to make purchases from the vendor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 172 BULLION TAXES (Jordan, K.) To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 466 TAX EXEMPTION (Smith, R.) To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 150 HOTEL INTERMEDIARIES (Grossman, C., Scherer, G.) To require hotel intermediaries to collect and remit applicable sales and use tax on the full amount paid for hotel lodging, to require hotel intermediaries to supply customers with itemized invoices, to specify that a hotel intermediary is presumed to have "substantial nexus" with Ohio if the intermediary arranges lodging at Ohio hotels, and to specify that hotels are not liable for the failure of a hotel intermediary to properly collect or remit applicable taxes. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.

HB 432 ESTATE LAW (Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 339 FOREIGN LAW (Young, R.) To prohibit courts, administrative agencies, and arbitrators from applying foreign law to the detriment of constitutional rights under the United States and Ohio constitutions. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 268 HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Hall, D., Dever, J.) To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting

prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

HB 362 **STRANGULATION** (Stinziano, M., Kunze, S.) To prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of another by strangulation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 38 **PRISON TERMS** (Patmon, B.) To create specifications that impose an additional prison term upon an offender who commits a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person and increase the period of commitment to the Department of Youth Services for committing an act that would be a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person if committed by an adult, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled person or an elderly person is the victim of the violation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 451 **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

SB 84 **FLAG DISPLAY** (Coley, B.) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 464 **NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIPS** (Terhar, L., Brinkman, T.) To specify that a National Guard scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment in the National Guard due to enlistment, warrant, commission, or appointment in the United States armed forces is not liable for repayment of the scholarship. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 388 **OVI OFFENSES** (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

SB 123 **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** (Hughes, J.) To allow emergency personnel in public safety vehicles to report traffic law violations under certain circumstances. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

SCR 9 **IRAN AGREEMENT** (Uecker, J.) To urge the Congress of the United States to disapprove the Iranian nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.

- **Reviews of Education Management Information System Advisory Board, English Language Arts Academic Standards Review Committee, Mathematics Academic Standards Review Committee, Science Academic Standards Review Committee, Social Studies Academic Standards Review Committee, Straight A Program Advisory Committee, Straight A Program Governing Board, Advisory Board to Assist and Advise in the Operation of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, Board of Voting Machines Examiners, Workers' Compensation Board of Directors Nominating Committee, Technical Advisory Committee to Assist Director of the Ohio Coal Development Office, Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, Barber Board**

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (**Chr. Derickson, T., 644-5094**), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

HB 298 **DRUG TESTING** (Schaffer, T., Maag, R.) To require applicants for unemployment benefits to submit to a drug test under certain circumstances, to require the director of Job & Family Services to operate an Ohio Works First drug testing pilot program and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 286 **MARRIAGE** (Vitale, N.) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Senate Education (Committee Record) (**Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538**), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

HB 299 **AUTISM SCHOLARSHIPS** (Blessing, L., Rezabek, J.) To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 241 **EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS** (LaRose, F.) With regard to the employment of specified education professionals by city, exempted village, and local school districts. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 252 **CARDIAC ARREST** (Hite, C., Patton, T.) With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (**Chr. Balderson, T.**, **466-8076**), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m. or after session

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of **Frederick Cash**, **Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission**; **James Krimmel** and **John Petkovsek**, **Environmental Education Council**; **Kerry Krugh** and **David Kimberly**, **Radiation Advisory Council** and **Craig Porter**, **Reclamation Commission**

SB 269 **WATER SYSTEMS** (Schiavoni, J.) To require a public water system to provide notice of lead contamination not later than thirty days after becoming aware that lead contamination may effect the system's drinking water, to require the Director of Environmental Protection to provide the notice if the public water system fails to provide it, to require employees of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide continuing assistance to a public water system that fails to provide the required notice of lead contamination, and to require the Director to adopt rules that increase the monitoring frequency for lead and copper under specified circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 118 **HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE SYSTEMS** (Eklund, J.) To authorize a board of county commissioners or municipal legislative authority to elect to withdraw the county or municipal corporation from the application of any rule adopted after January 1, 2014, by the Department of Health governing the design of household sewage treatment systems. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 185 **IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (Seitz, B.) To revise the law governing special improvement districts created for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Agency Calendar

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Air Quality Development Authority, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1718, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council, 77 South High Street, Room 1960, Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Housing Ohio 2016 Conference, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, 75 E. State St., Columbus

Ohio Bankers League lobby day
Ohio Right to Life legislative day

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to Friends of Kris Jordan)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Bowling Green State University Statehouse Falcons reception, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (RSVP to batesdc@bgsu.edu)

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$2,500; Chair \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual \$350 to Hackett for Ohio)

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$2,500; Event Sponsor \$1,000; Individual \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Chintz Room, 121 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Romanchuk for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Capital Club, Scarlet & Gray Room, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Ron Young)

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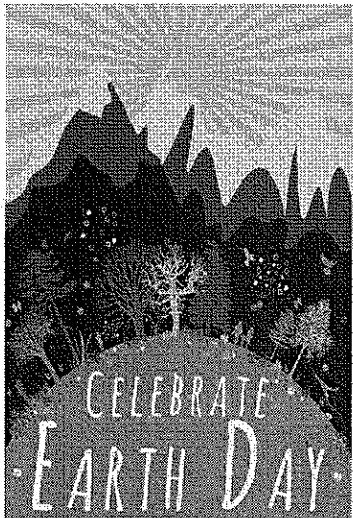
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From: Appalachia Ohio Alliance
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 10:35 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Visit AOA's Big Darby Cline Preserve this Weekend and Celebrate Earth Day with us!



This Saturday, April 23





Celebrate Earth Day

Visit AOA's Cline Preserve
along Big Darby Creek
this weekend

This gorgeous 119-acre site consists of 3,500 linear feet of valuable river frontage - including bottomlands and an upland forested bluff adjacent to the Big Darby, just north of Darbyville in Pickaway County.

AOA is partnering with several conservation partners to help conserve riparian lands in the Big Darby Creek corridor. Big Darby is a nationally designated scenic river recognized for its high water quality and biological diversity. The conserved property protects habitat for several rare and endangered species of bats, mussels and fish.

Cline Preserve Event Information



New Event Added
June 5th - Youth Fishing Derby

Volunteers Needed

for events and property stewardship
this spring and summer

If you would like to volunteer to help at the
Scioto River Open House
or other events

or share some time helping to keep the many invasives under
control on one or more of our beautiful preserves

Please contact us at aol@earthlink.net

Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

**Join AOA
or Renew Your Membership**

Be a part of our land and water conservation work

and help us make a difference!

[Online Membership Signup Forms](#)

Connect with AOA on Facebook

Stay updated on AOA news and event information!



Save the Dates - Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more exciting 2016 events!

We are planning trips to some fabulous AOA properties including Bison Hollow in the Hocking Hills and our new Marsha Gunder Schneider Preserve along the Scioto River in Pickaway County.

April 23 - Hike AOA's new Cline Preserve

May 7 - Steward Preserve Walk on the Big Darby

May 15 - Kleinmaier SNP Wildflower Hike

June 5 - Youth Fishing Derby

June 18 - Scioto Flyway Corridor Open House and Dedication

Get outside and enjoy spending time visiting AOA's preserves!

Visit the properties that you have helped conserve!!

If you would like to
Volunteer
for AOA please email aoalt@earthlink.net.
Your assistance is welcomed.

**To be added to our mailing list please forward your contact information to
aoalt@earthlink.net**



Appalachia Ohio Alliance
is a regional, non-profit land conservancy that is
dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of our land and water
as sustainable natural resources that are an asset and a legacy
for our community

Appalachia Ohio Alliance
P.O. Box 1151
Logan, Ohio 43138

To become a member or for more information about AOA
and our conservation mission please visit:

www.appalachiaohioalliance.org

AOA, P.O. Box 1151, Logan, OH 43138

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From: Gongwer News Service
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Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, April 25, 2016
Attachments: Apr25.htm; Apr25House.htm; Apr25Senate.htm;
160425dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Monday, April 25, 2016

House Education Panel To Examine Value-Added Report Card Measure

Bill To Extend Energy Freeze Introduced In Senate

Democrats Urge Feds To Reject Proposed 'Healthy Ohio' Medicaid Waiver

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State Tax Credits Aimed At Creating, Keeping Total Of 1,066 Jobs

Sierra Club Pushes For Public Disclosure Of FirstEnergy PPA Projections

Kasich, Cruz Unveil Truce To Stop Trump; Billionaire Rips Plan

Court Briefs: Pike County Crime Scenes Also Sites Of Marijuana Growing Operations; Cleveland Settles Civil Suit With Family Of Tamir Rice

Agency Briefs: Auditor Says Village Of Lincoln Heights Doesn't Qualify For Fiscal Distress; ODH; EPA; CSRAB; BMV; MHAS

Capitol Scene: Willoughby Moves To AMP; SEIU, Boich Promote

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Volume #85, Report #79 – Monday, April 25, 2016

House Education Panel To Examine Value-Added Report Card Measure

The House Education Committee this week will begin a deep dive into a state report card measure that's been the subject of debate over its accuracy in determining how much students are improving each year.

The panel will consider for the first time what the chairman has described as a "placeholder bill" (HB 524) that allows for discussion of the value-added report card measure, which reflects how much academic progress students made over the course of a year.

The bill comes in response to recent attempts from some advocacy groups to push the state toward using another measure in addition to, or instead of, "value-added" so that students' progress can be better compared to peers who are similar to them as opposed to their own previous test results, Chairman Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said.

The Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, a charter school advocacy group, recently lobbied for an amendment in a Senate priority measure (SB 3) that would add the similar students measure to the state report card. It pushed for the same addition in a charter school overhaul bill (HB 2) last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2016)

While the former bill could still be a vehicle for potential report card changes, Rep. Brenner said he felt the value-added versus similar students debate deserved separate consideration for now.

"I think they need to be vetted in their own bill and I think we need to have various groups come in and explain why we're doing things the way we are and what's included in it and what the importance is for each," he said in an interview.

Department of Education staff, who have lauded value-added as the best indicator of student success that's being used in the country, will explain how it is calculated during the committee's Wednesday morning meeting.

Rep. Brenner said the panel, which could meet twice the following week to consider the bill, will eventually hear from the measure's creators from Battelle for Kids.

"Many groups want to know what really are the components so we have a better understanding of it," he said. "If they knew a little more about how (value-added) was calculated for instance, they might have a better understanding of what they need to adjust in their school to meet the growth measures."

OCQE has argued that value-added doesn't adequately evaluate schools that have highly mobile and impoverished students, which are often charters and those in urban communities. That's because it's based on how students did last year - possibly at a different school - and doesn't compare them to similar students attending schools that share demographics.

The Ohio 8 Coalition, which has raised similar concerns about report cards not reflecting the uniqueness of each school in the state, will be encouraged to take part in the committee's conversation on value-added, Rep. Brenner said.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), who is sponsoring the measure with Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima), said he's not going into the process with preconceived notions about how to approach value-added or similar students measures.

"I don't have any goals necessarily; it's more of an education for me," he said in an interview. "If we find something that we think we need to do over and above value-added, I'm willing to have that conversation, but before we can get there we need to figure out how value-added measures work. I want to have a discussion with all parties involved because 1.8 million kids in the state are counting on us to get it right."

However, much like the Thomas B. Fordham Institute has found through its research, Rep. Smith said value-added is a "really good concept" because achievement can be measured individually and sometimes reflects how well a school is doing in helping students progress despite not seeing high test scores.

"What's important and I'm really interested in is making sure that every student is making progress, not necessarily all getting 100% on their tests, but that they're making progress from where they've started and that's why I think value-added is very intriguing to me because it levels the playing field," he said.

The Fordham Institute, which sponsors charter schools, recently released a report touting value-added as being the key to uncovering best practices in high-poverty urban schools. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 11, 2016)

Such schools universally receive low overall marks on state report cards, but some receive high value-added ratings, according to the report.

Per House Bill 2, which was enacted earlier this year, ODE is researching the similar students measure and is required to submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations by Dec. 1.

Rep. Brenner said the discussion about how to improve school report cards and the how data is being used in the long term could likely be continued through the Joint Education Oversight Committee.

Bill To Extend Energy Freeze Introduced In Senate

Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) on Monday introduced his much-awaited bill to extend the ongoing renewable energy mandates freeze by three years.

In its major components, the bill (SB 320) is much the same as a draft circulated by Sen. Seitz last week to gauge stakeholder input. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2016)

It maintains the draft's 2019 end date for the freeze, while eliminating compliance measurements for the years 2021-22, 2023-24, and 2026-27.

It also keeps intact draft language prohibiting any state agency from issuing certain guidelines on carbon dioxide emissions, electric dispatch protocols, natural gas utilization, or regulating the acquisition of renewable energy and more "without new and specific state statutory authority to do so."

Several interested parties on both sides of the issue said Monday they had not yet had time to examine the final bill, which was introduced late in the afternoon. But in addition to continuing the freeze, opponents have expressed concerns the draft version would water down the definition of energy efficiency and remove flexibility from the state's response to the Clean Power Plan.

The bill as introduced would expand the definition of energy efficiency to include post-consumer recycled glass by mercantile customers, consumer reductions in water usage, and improvements in wastewater treatment. It would also expand the consumer base eligible for opting out of energy efficiency programs.

Whether Gov. John Kasich would sign such a bill remains to be seen. The governor last year blasted the Energy Mandates Study Committee's recommendation to continue the freeze. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

Governor's office spokesman Joe Andrews declined to comment in detail on the introduced bill, which he said could change by the time it hits the governor's desk.

But Mr. Andrews said the governor has been clear on his opinion on continuing the freeze. Gov. Kasich previously called the idea of an indefinite continuation "unacceptable."

When it comes to the idea of a three year extension, Mr. Andrews said the governor's reaction will be much the same.

"It's still kicking the can down the road," Mr. Andrews said.

At an April 19 campaign stop in Maryland, Gov. Kasich said he has "leverage" over lawmakers in the discussion, according to video from CSPAN.

"They're going to have to come with a commonsense plan because if they try to kill it we'll go back to the unattainable level that was set," Gov. Kasich said. "That's called leverage. I have leverage."

He urged promoting efficiency and renewables, while criticizing politicians for setting the standard "at a level we can't meet."

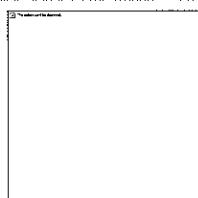
"So we want to have energy," he said. "The problem was the legislature got carried away at one point and our standards were 20 or 25% and they wanted to get rid of it. I said no, we're not going to do it. We'll reset it to fit the economy of Ohio."

Democrats Urge Feds To Reject Proposed 'Healthy Ohio' Medicaid Waiver

Democrats said Monday that a proposed Medicaid waiver to require participants to pay into an account is an effort to roll back the efforts after the Affordable Care Act to increase access to coverage.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) joined state lawmakers at a Statehouse news conference to oppose the so-called "Healthy Ohio" plan, which Sen. Brown said he is actively urging the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reject.

"We're asking them to reject this application and say no to hiking costs for people all across Ohio," he said. "We're going to do all we can to deny the Ohio waiver because it clearly cuts at the heart of the Medicaid."



Sen. Brown

The state is required to pursue the waiver because of language written into the biennial budget bill (HB 64). It would create a five-year demonstration program in which about 1.5 million people on Medicaid are required to pay into a modified health savings account called a Buckeye Account in order to receive coverage. The participant's contributions to the account would be used to pay for co-pays. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2016)

Supporters of the program, including state Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), have said it will improve personal responsibility among people on Medicaid and create incentives for more people to take advantage of primary and preventative care.

Since the waiver was opened for public comment April 15, opponents have criticized it as a way in which legislators have tried to undo the progress of Medicaid expansion. Medicaid participants who don't make the required contributions to the Buckeye Account - 2% of their income up to \$99 per year - would lose coverage.

"I believe this could be a prescription for disaster for many of Ohio's most vulnerable, especially in the fact that it could create a serious setback to the health of many low-income Ohioans," Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) said Monday. "We run the risk of driving hard-working Ohioans away from preventative and maintenance care in a doctor's office and pushing them back into the emergency room."

"We must expose the Healthy Ohio waiver for the Trojan horse that it is," she added.

Rep. Antonio said the proposal is similar to one in Indiana that the state later rolled back.

"They went back on it because what they were finding was that the health outcomes were not helpful once they instituted the premiums," she said.

Rep. Butler, one of the architects of the plan, said the Healthy Ohio plan is similar to the original Indiana plan but with some changes. The Healthy Ohio program doesn't lock people out of reapplying for Medicaid if they lose coverage, he said, it allows people to regain coverage once they start making payments again. The Ohio program also allows people who move to private insurance to take the money in their Buckeye Account with them in a bridge account, he said.

Rep. Butler said the Indiana plan, which was implemented in 2008, was successful.

Without doing something to control costs in Medicaid, Rep. Butler said, the state could face financial struggles with rising costs.

"Doing nothing is not a plan," he said in a Friday interview. "I'm open to suggestions. Come with a solution rather than just spend more money, because that's just unsustainable."

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) said he expected the Healthy Ohio program would lead to higher administrative costs for the state and wouldn't lead to the health outcomes Rep. Butler expects.

"When push comes to shove, we're going to see very little benefit of this for a whole lot of work," he said.

Rep. Antonio said the program could jeopardize coverage for new mothers, something that wouldn't help the state's high infant mortality rates.

Sen. Brown said the fact that some people would be kicked off of Medicaid means many would stay off of it and go back to using hospital emergency rooms without being able to pay the bills. That would cost everyone more money as hospitals go back to having to cover some of the nearly \$2.3 billion in uncompensated care from before the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The proposal goes against the idea of Medicaid, he said.

"When people are rejected from something, that makes it that much more difficult to come back," Sen. Brown said. "The whole promise to people was we'll have a compact with you. You will show up for maintenance and preventative care as well as showing up when you have an acute crisis or health problem and we'll provide the care at no cost."

The comment period on the waiver runs through May 16. The final public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Cincinnati.

Gentile Heads Into Fall Election Cycle With Fundraising Lead Over Opponent; GOP Caucus Leaders Hold Huge Cash Advantage; DeWine Leads In High Court Funding

Republicans' top Senate target in this fall's elections has a commanding lead thus far in the money race.

Sen. Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville) has built a campaign war chest of \$428,401 in his bid to retain his seat in the 30th Senate District, according to post-primary campaign finance reports.

Post-primary reports include all activity from Feb. 25 to April 15.

Sen. Gentile spent just \$8,110 over that period, while raising \$102,251.

His opponent, Frank Hoagland, a retired Navy SEAL who owns START LLC in Mingo Junction, reported a balance of \$6,358 on hand. He raised \$9,624 and spent \$7,396.

Despite his cash shortcomings, Mr. Hoagland is expected to see a lot of support from the well-heeled Republican Senate Campaign Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2016) Given the politically lopsided, non-competitive nature of most of the GOP-drawn Senate districts, the majority won't have a lot of choices on where to spend its considerable cash advantage.

After spending \$102,351 in his primary victory against Reps. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) and Nan Baker (R-Westlake) in the 24th Senate District's primary election, former lawmaker Matt Dolan has just \$7,892 on hand, according to his filing. He received \$25,967 in donations during the period.

His Democratic opponent, Emily Hagan, staff attorney for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael P. Donnelly, has \$68,904 on hand. She raised \$27,460 and spent \$3,750 during her uncontested primary election.

On the House side, in the race to replace term-limited Rep. Debbie Phillips (D-Albany) Republican Jay Edwards has a commanding fundraising lead, with \$42,852 on hand. He received \$4,600 in donations and spent just \$2,500 during his uncontested primary.

Democrat Sarah Grace has just \$1,742 on hand. She raised \$3,545 and spent \$6,738 in defeating fellow Democrat Eddie Smith in the primary election in the 94th House District.

In the race for the 89th House District seat, Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton), who narrowly defeated former Rep. Chris Redfern during the previous election cycle, has a slight fundraising deficit over his Democratic challenger.

Rep. Arndt has \$2,442 on hand after raising \$5,300 and spending \$5,100. His challenger, Lawrence Hartlaub, has \$4,590 on hand. He raised \$3,135 and spent \$2,359.

In the race for the 95th House District seat, Belmont County Commissioner Ginny Favede holds a significant fundraising advantage over incumbent Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta).

Ms. Favede has \$39,941 on hand. She raised \$11,092 and spent \$1,132. Rep. Thompson, meanwhile, has \$4,220 on hand. He raised \$5,360 and spent \$10,416.

Democrat Bobby McDowall holds a fundraising advantage over Rep. Anthony DeVitis (R-Green) in the race for the 36th House District seat, which the incumbent won with 52.5% of the vote in the last presidential cycle.

Mr. McDowall has \$13,974 on hand after raising \$6070 and spending \$2,258.

Rep. DeVitis has \$3,459 on hand. He raised \$10,115 and spent \$10,118.

Although he is expected to cruise to victory in his race against Democrat John Carlisle in the heavily conservative 72nd House District, former House Speaker Larry Householder has accumulated \$66,250 after spending \$75,187 and raising \$47,395.

Leadership: Republican leaders of both chambers have plenty of cash to spread around in the general election.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has \$420,795 on hand after spending \$17,449.

He raised \$163,147, with his largest contributions - \$12,532 each - coming from Political Education Patterns and Cynthia and Wayne Boich.

He also received \$10,000 donations from the Ohio Health Care Association PAC; the Realtors PAC; GOPAC Election Fund; the PAC for Equine Racing; J.C. Huizenga; and Karen Wright.

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) has \$178,648 on hand after spending \$27,615.

He received \$131,280 in contributions, including \$12,500 from FirstEnergy PAC, \$12,000 from the Realtors PAC and the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association PAC.

He also received donations of \$5,000 from Cardinal Health PAC; Marathon Petroleum Corporation Employees PAC; CCG PAC; and the Ohio State Chiropractic Association PAC.

His counterpart, Minority Leader Strahorn (D-Dayton), had \$2,593 on hand. He spent \$26,407 and raised \$23,525.

His largest contributions came from FirstEnergy PAC, which donated \$4,000, Laborers District Council of Ohio PAC, which donated \$2,500, and the Ohio Association for Justice, which also donated \$2,500.

Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) did not file a post-primary campaign finance report.

Supreme Court: First District Court of Appeals Judge Pat DeWine, a Republican, has more cash on hand than the other three high court candidates combined.

Judge DeWine is sitting on a campaign war chest of \$538,602 after spending \$41,486 and raising \$74,780 during the most recent reporting period.

He faces Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge Cynthia Rice in the general election. The Democrat has \$76,310 on hand. She spent just \$3,226 and raised \$26,850.

In the other race for an open seat Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge John O'Donnell, a Democrat who lost a bid for a high court seat in 2014, has \$60,944 on hand. He spent \$23,043 and raised \$30,070.

His opponent, First District Court of Appeals Judge Pat Fischer, has \$29,220 on hand after spending \$121,579 to dispatch opponent Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge Colleen Mary O'Toole in the Republican primary. He raised \$64,625 in the reporting period.

State Tax Credits Aimed At Creating, Keeping Total Of 1,060 Jobs

Seven business expansion projects were awarded an estimated total of about \$1.64 million in tax credits Monday under multi-year deals with the state that are expected to create 530 jobs and retain 536.

The Tax Credit Authority reported that the projects are expected to result in \$21,241,653 in new payroll and lead to \$24.1 million in additional investments.

The largest incentive, with an estimated value of \$590,000 contingent on the business meeting its growth targets and other factors, went to **EBTH.com LLC**, according to the state.

The online estate sale company received a 1.259%, seven-year Job Creation Tax credit to locate its business in a yet-to-be-determined site in the state. The company plans to create 275 full-time positions generating \$7.7 million in new annual payroll while retaining \$3.3 million in payroll, TCA reported.

The next largest tax credit, valued at an estimated \$428,000, went to **ATK Space Systems, Inc.**, a supplier of rocket motors and other space systems with locations in Kettering and Beavercreek. The company projects it will create 68 full-time jobs with a consolidation involving the two locations, in the process creating \$4.3 million in payroll and retaining \$8 million in payroll, TCA reported. The authority awarded a 1.701%, seven-year JCTC for the project.

Other tax credits approved Monday went to (estimated tax value):

GENCO I, Inc. of Columbus, which expects to create 82 jobs generating \$3 million in new annual payroll with its new project. The logistic services provider received a 1.153%, six-year tax credit (\$192,000).

Ball Metal Food Container, LLC of Columbus plans 50 new full-time positions generating \$2.5 million in annual payroll while retaining \$10.8 million in payroll under an expansion. The TCA approved a 1.228%, six-year JCTC for the packaging manufacturer's project (\$184,000).

Cognitive Ventures, LLC of Dublin expects to create 17 positions and generate \$1.6 million in new payroll by locating in the Franklin County suburb. The concussion testing and management company received a 1.426%, six-year tax credit (\$116,000).

Risk International Services, Inc. of Fairlawn in Summit County plans to create 18 full-time jobs entailing \$1.3 million in payroll while retaining \$4 million in payroll under an expansion. The TCA awarded the risk management firm a 1.401%, six-year JCTC (\$100,145).

Rotex Global, LLC of Cincinnati expects to create 20 full-time positions generating \$867,616 in payroll and retain \$9.9 million in payroll with an expansion project. The provider of dry material screening equipment and technology was awarded a 0.722%, five-year tax credit (\$29,000).

Sierra Club Pushes For Public Disclosure Of FirstEnergy PPA Projections

The fallout of recently approved Power Purchase Agreements continues as FirstEnergy and the Sierra Club argue over whether confidential consumer cost estimates and revenue projections should be made public.

The debate is laid out in the latest filings in a case involving the PPA modified and approved March 31 by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 31, 2016)

In that order, the commission generally approved an eight-year plan for consumers to ensure profits on the company's aging power plants. Now PPA opponent Sierra Club is attempting to make public internal FirstEnergy projections the group says show how much the plan might cost customers.

The projections in question stem from the December testimony of Sierra Club witness Tyler Comings, a senior associate at Massachusetts-based Synapse Energy Economics Inc. In redacted portions of that testimony, according to FirstEnergy's PUCO filing, Mr. Comings discussed "a certain projection regarding the alleged cost of Rider RRS" over the terms of the Electric Security Plan.

The Sierra Club, in its own filing, referred to the information as a "projection of costs and revenues" under the rider "including a calculation of the net impact that the Rider RRS would have on customers over the eight-year term using FES's forecast of market prices."

On Friday, the Sierra Club moved to modify the existing protective order issued during prior proceedings, requesting the PUCO modify the order to allow the information to become public. It argues the projection would assist the public in understanding and interpreting the PUCO's recent order and that it's not dissimilar from previous information made public during the hearing process.

"This projection, which contains no plant-specific data, is not a trade secret and therefore should be removed from the scope of the commission's protective order," Sierra Club argued.

"Because disclosure of the FES projection would facilitate the public's review and understanding of the Commission's decision, and because this projection is not a trade secret, this information should be publicly released," the group continued.

In its own filing Friday, the company disagrees, accusing the group of "threatening" to release trade secrets. FirstEnergy's motion is for the PUCO to maintain its existing protective order, which it said would keep that projection outside the public domain.

"This projection was generated using inputted confidential and proprietary cost and revenue projections that FES provided to Sierra Club in response to a subpoena request," reads FirstEnergy's filing. "Disclosure of this material could economically harm FES by placing FES at a competitive disadvantage."

On April 15, Sierra Club attorneys wrote to FirstEnergy, advising the company it intended to make the information public "because they do not contain any trade secrets," according to copies of an email exchange submitted to the PUCO as an exhibit.

"Apparently frustrated with the Commission's decision, Sierra Club has now decided to resort to self-help and has threatened to insert this already protected information into the public domain," FirstEnergy argued in its filing.

That email kick-started the filings, prompting a PUCO attorney examiner to set a Tuesday deadline by which parties may file responses to the motions. No replies to those arguments will be considered, the examiner determined.

Kasich, Cruz Unveil Truce To Stop Trump's Billionaire Rigs Plan

GOP frontrunner Donald Trump blasted Gov. John Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, accusing the two trailing Republicans of a desperate attempt at "collusion."

Mr. Trump's statement followed news that the Cruz campaign will lay off New Mexico and Oregon, allowing Gov. Kasich a clear shot at challenging Mr. Trump, while the Kasich camp agreed to cede Indiana to the senator.

The two haven't gone as far as to urge their supporters to vote for the other candidate - in contrast Gov. Kasich on Monday said his Indiana supporters "ought to vote for me" - but the pair has essentially agreed to not spend money in those respective states and are publicly urging their super PACs to do the same.

By doing so, the pair - each of which has been mathematically eliminated from seizing the nomination prior to a contested convention - hopes to launch a two-front attack that will block Mr. Trump from collecting the required 1,237 delegates.

"It is sad that two grown politicians have to collude against one person who has only been a politician for 10 months in order to try and stop that person from getting the Republican nomination," Mr. Trump said in his statement.

If successful, the gambit would force a contested convention, where both Sen. Cruz and Gov. Kasich believe they stand a shot at earning the nomination on the second ballot or beyond. But strategists for the two temporary allies were quick to say the truce only stands in those three states.

"Our goal is to have an open convention in Cleveland, where we are confident a candidate capable of uniting the party and winning in November will emerge as the nominee," Kasich Chief Strategist John Weaver said. "We believe that will be John Kasich, who is the only candidate who can defeat Secretary Clinton and preserve our GOP majority in the Congress."

Cruz Campaign Manager Jeff Roe, in his statement, said Mr. Trump would be a down-ballot "disaster" who would get "blown out" by either Democratic contender.

"To ensure that we nominate a Republican who can unify the Republican Party and win in November, our campaign will focus its time and resources in Indiana and in turn clear

the path for Gov. Kasich to compete in Oregon and New Mexico, and we would hope that allies of both campaigns would follow our lead."

Mr. Trump, in response, said the Cruz campaign is "in free fall" and criticized Gov. Kasich for having fewer delegates than Sen. Marco Rubio who dropped out of the race more than one month ago.

"This horrible act of desperation, from two campaigns who have totally failed, makes me even more determined, for the good of the Republican Party and our country, to prevail!" Mr. Trump said.

The tight race, in which every delegate Mr. Trump earns could be the last inch he needs to cross the 1,237 delegate threshold, has shifted more importance toward late voting states like Indiana, which heads to the polls May 3.

Indiana has 57 delegates - 30 which go to the state winner, and 27 others allotted to winners by congressional district. Recent polling continues to show Gov. Kasich lagging in Indiana, making Sen. Cruz the more competitive of the two.

An April 20-22 CBS News/YouGov poll found Mr. Trump at 40%, Sen. Cruz at 35% and Gov. Kasich at 20%. An April 18-21 Fox News poll found Mr. Trump (41%) similarly leading Sen. Cruz (33%) and Gov. Kasich (16%). A WTHR/HPI poll showed Mr. Trump at 37%, followed by Sen. Cruz (31%) and Gov. Kasich (22%).

"Due to the fact that the Indiana primary is winner-take-all statewide and by congressional district, keeping Trump from winning a plurality in Indiana is critical to keeping him under 1,237 bound delegates before Cleveland," Mr. Weaver said. "We are very comfortable with our delegate position in Indiana already, and given the current dynamics of the primary there, we will shift our campaign's resources west and give the Cruz campaign a clear path in Indiana."

Tuesday: Recent polls show Gov. Kasich in second in four northeastern states voting this week, while he battles Sen. Cruz in an effort to reach second in Pennsylvania. In addition to the Keystone State, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware vote Tuesday.

Recent Pennsylvania polls - from the left-leaning Public Policy Polling, CBS News/YouGov, and NBC/*Wall Street Journal/Marist* - show the governor in third, three or four points behind Sen. Cruz. In those polls, Sen. Cruz lags Mr. Trump by between 18-26 points. An April 21-24 poll from American Research Group showed Mr. Trump at 50%, Sen. Cruz at 23% and Gov. Kasich at 21%.

Rhode Island's recent polls show Gov. Kasich in a distant second. PPP's April 22-24 poll had him at 23%, down 38 points from Mr. Trump's 61% and 10 points above Sen. Cruz. Brown University, in an April 19-21 poll, found Mr. Trump at 38%, followed by Gov. Kasich (25%) and Sen. Cruz (14%).

In other states, PPP's April 22-24 Connecticut poll placed Mr. Trump at 59%, ahead of Gov. Kasich (25%) and Sen. Cruz (13%). An April 21-24 ARG poll of Maryland found Mr. Trump leading Gov. Kasich 55-21%, followed by Sen. Cruz (19%). And in Delaware, the only poll to date, conducted April 17-18 by Gravis, found Mr. Trump at 55%, Gov. Kasich at 18% and Sen. Cruz at 15%.

Vice President: The Kasich campaign recently began vetting potential vice presidential candidates, Gov. Kasich said in a Sunday CBS interview.

Asked whether he plans to unveil the VP candidate prior to the convention in order to make the Kasich ticket more attractive to delegates, Gov. Kasich didn't close the door on the idea.

"These things come quickly and you don't want to have yourself in a position where you've got to pick somebody out of a hat," Gov. Kasich said.

Endorsements: Endorsing Gov. Kasich in recent days were the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, the *Lewistown (Penn.) Sentinel*, and former Pennsylvania U.S. Rep. Melissa Hart. The campaign also expanded its Washington leadership team.

Court Briefs: Pike County Crime Scenes Also Sites Of Marijuana Growing Operations; Cleveland Settles Civil Suit With Family Of Tamir Rice

Three of the four Pike County locations at which law enforcement officials on Friday discovered the bodies of eight individuals housed marijuana growing operations, Attorney General Mike DeWine said at a news conference Sunday.

Mr. DeWine did not say the murders and the marijuana growing operations are linked. He said investigators have not ruled out the possibility that there was more than one killer involved.

He also cautioned that the investigation could be lengthy.

"This was a pre-planned execution of eight individuals. It was a sophisticated operation and those who carried it out were trying to do everything they could do to hinder the investigation and their prosecution," he said at the news conference.

Eighteen pieces of evidence are being analyzed for forensics and ballistics at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation crime lab, five search warrants have been executed, more than 50 people have been interviewed and more than 100 tips have been received about the case, according to Mr. DeWine.

Also over the weekend, the attorney general's office released the names of the victims, all of whom are members of the same family and ranged in age from 16 to 44. On Monday, the attorney general's office released a chart to explain the familial relationships of the victims.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader said at the news conference that he has spoken to remaining members of the family and advised them to be armed.

Cincinnati restaurant owner Jeff Ruby is offering a \$25,000 reward for information that results in the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the killings.

The attorney general's office on Monday also announced that autopsies had been completed on all eight victims.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call 1-855-BCI-OHIO or the Pike County Sheriff's Office at 740-947-2111.

Rice Settlement: The city of Cleveland and the family of Tamir Rice have reached a settlement in a civil suit over the shooting death of the 12-year-old boy.

The family will receive \$6 million over the course of two years, according to the settlement approved by U.S. District Judge Dan Polster. The settlement will also require the approval of a Cuyahoga County Probate Court judge.

Mr. Rice was killed by Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann in November 2014 after receiving reports of someone in a park with a gun. Mr. Rice was wielding a toy gun at the time of the shooting.

A grand jury late last year declined to bring any charges against Mr. Loehmann for the shooting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 28, 2015)

The lack of charges has led some to call for changes to the grand jury process in Ohio in cases of officer-involved shootings. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 14, 2016)

A task force created by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to improve public confidence in the system is also exploring the issue. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 1, 2016)

In the wake of the settlement, the ACLU of Ohio called for reforms to the criminal justice system.

"Money alone cannot provide justice in the tragic death of this child," Executive Director Christine Link said in a statement. "The web of laws and practices that prevent accountability for police misconduct needs to be taken apart and replaced with concrete solutions to eliminate racial bias in the justice system. Merely paying for police misconduct without addressing the deeper issues will allow this behavior to continue year after year."

Agency Briefs: Auditor Says Village Of Lincoln Heights Doesn't Qualify For Fiscal Distress; ODH; EPA; CSRAB; BMV; MHAS

The Village of Lincoln Heights in Hamilton County doesn't meet the standards for fiscal distress status, State Auditor Dave Yost announced Monday.

Auditor Yost sent a team of auditors to the community April 21, and staff will continue to work in the village as part of its regularly scheduled financial audit.

The village did not meet the conditions for any of the three levels of fiscal distress - fiscal caution, fiscal watch or fiscal emergency - because it is current on pension obligations and its payables, including obligations to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, are within 30 days of being paid, according to the auditor's office.

"While the village's budget continues to be tighter than two coats of paint, it's paying its bills," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "The village doesn't meet the standards for any type of fiscal distress oversight. We have been and remain concerned about its fiscal health and will continue to monitor the situation."

Health: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance for outdoor workers, mosquito control workers and business travels to prevent exposure to the Zika virus, according to ODH.

Ohio has 10 confirmed cases of Zika involving people who returned from affected countries.

For outdoor workers, the CDC recommends workers use insect repellants, wear clothing that covers hands, arms, legs and other exposed skin and get rid of sources of standing water whenever possible. For mosquito control workers, the CDC also recommends they use protection to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Employers should consider giving business travelers flexibility when traveling to areas with active Zika transmission. The CDC also recommended that pregnant women not travel to any affected area, and that people who return to the U.S. from affected areas try to avoid mosquito bites for three weeks to prevent passing the virus to domestic mosquitoes.

"Workers who are exposed on the job to mosquitoes or the blood or other body fluids of infected individuals may be at risk for occupationally acquired Zika virus infection," ODH Medical Director Dr. Mary DiOrio said in a statement.

ODH will hold a workshop Tuesday to help local health departments and others prepare for mosquito season. The workshop will focus on monitoring and controlling mosquitoes who carry diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus.

Ohio EPA: The EPA awarded grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to local governments to strengthen recycling and litter prevention efforts. The grants are designed to help expand curbside recycling programs and support infrastructure for recovery facilities.

Grant communities must commit to 50% matching funds.

The EPA also awarded grants for two projects to help companies develop markets for reusing scrap tires.

The agency awarded \$350,000 to Liberty Tire Services of Ohio LLC, in partnership with Jackson Township, to purchase scrap tire processing equipment. A \$50,000 grant went to the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District and the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation to buy processing equipment to create geo cells made of scrap tire material.

Ohio Statehouse: The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board will mark the 151st anniversary of the repose of President Abraham Lincoln's body in the Statehouse Friday with an event involving a group of Civil War reenactors who will provide an honor guard for a replica of the president's casket.

The event will take place in the rotunda from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A reenactors will also hold a Civil War encampment on the grounds of the Statehouse, including cannon firings every half hour.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles: The BMV unveiled a new specialty license plate for female veterans, which was available starting Monday.

The plate is available for any woman currently serving or retired from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard.

"We are proud of these brave women who have served our country, and are pleased that Ohioans can now honor them by displaying the new special plate on their vehicle," BMV Registrar Don Petit said in a statement.

More than 67,000 female veterans live in Ohio. The new plate is one of 40 military-related specialty plates.

"Ohio's women veterans are groundbreakers," said Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill, "They have served with distinction in every war and we thank them for their role in preserving and protecting our freedom."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: Director Tracy Plouck testified before a public hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Friday in Cleveland. The hearing was focused on the impact of the opioid epidemic in Ohio, and included Sens. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and Sherrod Brown (D-Avon).

Director Plouck joined Attorney General Mike DeWine and others in testifying about the battle against opioid addiction.

Capitol Scene: Willoughby Moves To AMPP, SEIU, Bolch Promote

Charles Willoughby, who most recently worked as director of energy and environmental policy at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, has been named director of government affairs for American Municipal Power, Inc.

In the new role, Mr. Willoughby will be the primary Statehouse contact for AMP and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association.

"Charles will work closely with AMP and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) on behalf of our member utilities," said Michael Beirne, vice president of external affairs. "The issues confronting Ohio's municipal electric systems are many and often complex. His background and knowledge will be a great asset to the organizations and our members."

Before joining the Chamber, he was a government affairs consultant to the Industrial Energy Users - Ohio and was policy and legislative liaison for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. He also held staff positions for Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) when he served in the Senate, and for former Rep. Courtney Combs.

Mr. Willoughby is a graduate of Miami University.

Service Employee Union: SEIU District 1199 announced that Anthony Caldwell has been named director for public affairs.

"We are pleased to announce Anthony Caldwell as our new Director of Public Affairs for SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH," president Becky Williams said. "Anthony has spent his career dedicated to improving the lives of working people and working to achieve greater social and economic justice. Caldwell's experience in communications and politics matched with his depth of knowledge of the legislature have prepared him to lead in this important role."

The group is the health care and social service union for West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, representing almost 29,000 workers.

Boich: The Boich Companies announced that Mathew T. Evans has been named the firm's president.

In the new position, Mr. Evans will take an increased leadership role as the company continues to diversify in energy markets.

"Obviously, the energy mix in this country has and will be seeing significant changes," Mr. Evans said. "I look forward to helping the company further evolve as we move into the future."

Before the promotion, Mr. Evans was president of external relations for Boich Companies. He joined the company in 2001, and leads the company's government affairs activities at state and federal levels.

Mr. Evans is a former Ohio Senate aide who also worked for former Gov. George V. Voinovich. He also spent five years working in legislative and regulatory affairs for Cinergy, now known as Duke Energy. He is a graduate of Ohio University.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 26

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room West B & C - 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 28

State Board of Education, Ohio Department of Education, 25 South Front Street, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ethics Commission, 126 S. State St., Meeting Room A, Westerville, 12 p.m. (Advisory Committee)

EMIS Advisory Board, Statehouse Rm. 116, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 29

Accountancy Board, Rm. West B&C, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 5

Ethics Commission, 30 West Spring Street, Meeting Room 2, 2nd Fl., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

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House Activity for Monday, April 25, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 529 ■ **FIREARMS** (Rutherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training or comparable training and who is authorized to carry firearms by the law enforcement agency the professional is serving to carry firearms while on duty in the same manner, to the same extent, in the same areas, and subject to the same potential for civil and criminal liability as a law enforcement officer of the agency; and to grant such a professional, while on duty in that capacity, the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a person who was issued a concealed handgun license. Am. 109.71, 109.73, 109.75, 109.79, 109.801, and 2923.126 and to enact sections 109.748 and 109.771

HB 530 ■ **CHILD CARE CENTERS** (Rutherford, W.) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers. Am. 5104.01, 5104.015, and 5104.99 and to enact sections 5104.0113, 5104.15, 5104.16, and 5104.17

HB 531 ■ **MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS** (Hill, B.) To require townships to provide mileage reimbursement to a member of a board of township trustees and to a township fiscal officer for travel within the township that is necessary in the performance of the member's or fiscal officer's duties. Am. 505.242 and 507.091

HB 532 ■ **REAL ESTATE SALES** (Smith, R.) Relating to real estate brokers and salespersons. Am. 4735.01, 4735.06, 4735.07, 4735.09, 4735.10, 4735.141, 4735.18, 4735.24, 4735.51, and 4735.65 and to enact sections 1386, 4735.081, 4735.091, and 4735.23

HB 533 ■ **AWARENESS MONTH** (Sprague, R.) To designate the month of May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month." Am. 5.259

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Commission on Minority Health: Rep. Sykes

Joint Education Oversight Committee of the House of Representatives and Senate: Rep. Patterson as ranking minority member

Medina County Transportation Improvement District Board of Trustees: Rep. Hambley

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Senate Activity for Monday, April 25, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 318 ■ **DISCRIMINATION** (Skindell, M., Tavares, C.) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law. Am. 9.03, 124.93, 125.111, 153.59, 153.591, 340.12, 511.03, 717.01, 1501.012, 1751.18, 2927.03, 3113.36, 3301.53, 3304.15, 3304.50, 3314.06, 3332.09, 3721.13, 3905.55, 4111.17, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.021, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4117.19, 4735.16, 4735.55, 4757.07, 4758.16, 4765.18, 5104.09, 5107.26, 5123.351, 5126.07, 5165.08, 5515.08, and 5709.832

SB 319 ■ **DRUG REGULATIONS** (Eklund, J.) To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, and the provision of addiction services. Am. 2925.61, 2929.14, 2947.231, 3707.56, 3719.121, 3719.21, 4729.06, 4729.071, 4729.16, 4729.18, 4729.19, 4729.38, 4729.51, 4729.54, 4729.541, 4729.55, 4729.571, 4729.60, 4729.68, 4729.99, 4731.22, 4731.94, 4776.02, 4776.04, and 5119.391, to enact sections 3707.58, 3707.59, 4729.10, 4729.40, 4729.45, 4729.513, 4729.514, 4729.553, 4729.90, 4729.901, 4729.902, 4729.91, 4729.92, 4729.921, 4729.93, 4729.94, 4729.95, 4729.96, and 4731.943, and to repeal section 4729.42 of the Revised Code and to amend Sections 331.90 and 331.120 of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly

SB 320 ■ **RENEWABLE ENERGY** (Seitz, B.) To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction, to permit property owners to petition municipal corporations and townships for the purpose of developing and implementing special energy improvement projects, to govern condominium association participation in special improvement districts, to require deployment and permit cost recovery of advanced energy analytics technology by electric distribution utilities, and to revise the law governing net metering service provided by electric utilities and electric services companies. Am. 710.01, 1710.02, 1710.06, 1710.13, 3706.25, 4582.06, 4582.31, 4928.01, 4928.02, 4928.55, 4928.64, 4928.66, 4928.662, 4928.6610, and 4928.67; to recodify section 4928.67 as sections

4928.6711, 4928.6713, 4928.6715, 4928.6717, 4928.6723, and 4928.6725; and to enact sections 1710.20, 1710.21, 1710.22, 1710.24, 1710.241, 1710.26, 1710.28, 3745.28, 4928.41, 4928.6620, 4928.6621, 4928.671, 4928.672, 4928.673, 4928.676, 4928.677, 4928.679, 4928.6719, and 4928.6721

Gongwer Coverage

SR 443

RAIL CREWS (Skindell, M.) To support the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed rule requiring trains operated in the United States to have at least a two-person crew.

SCR 20

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (Peterson, B.) To support the use of science-based data to assess the impacts and regulation of modern agricultural technologies, and to oppose federal, state, or local legislative or regulatory actions that are not based on sound science and that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Joint Legislative Task Force on Department of Transportation Issues: Appoint Sen. LaRose to replace Sen. Manning

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 26

Legislative Committees

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 9:30 a.m.

SB 172 **BULLION TAXES** (Jordan, K.) To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 473 **TAX POLICY** (Amstutz, R.) To require voter approval before a county may levy a new utilities services tax, to allow small businesses to count employees of related or affiliated entities towards satisfying the employment criteria of the business investment tax credit, to permit a bad debt refund for cigarette and tobacco product excise taxes paid when a purchaser fails to pay a dealer for the cigarettes or tobacco products and the unpaid amount is charged off as uncollectible by the dealer, and to allow vendors to receive a refund of sales taxes remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit card lender. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 297 **TAX CREDIT** (Hill, B.) To authorize a refundable income tax credit for current livestock owners who invest in a manure storage or treatment facility or acquire manure application equipment or manure handling and transportation equipment. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 466-6711), Rm. 017, overflow in 018, 9:30 a.m.

- Presentation from the Ohio Department of Education on value-added.

HB 524 **SCHOOL RATINGS** (Cupp, R., Smith, R.) To review the value-added progress dimension measure used for purposes of state report card ratings for school districts and schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 487 **BILITERACY** (LaTourette, S., Roegner, K.) To require the State Board of Education to establish the state Seal of Biliteracy to be attached or affixed to the high school transcripts of qualifying students. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 481 **STUDENT ENROLLMENT** (Thompson, A., Koehler, K.) To revise the requirements regarding student enrollment reporting for public schools, mandatory student withdrawal policies, and scholarship program eligibility relative to students who choose not to take state assessments during the 2015-2016 school year and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 137 **ORGAN DONATION** (Grossman, C., Phillips, D.) To require the health curriculum of each school district to include instruction on the positive effects of organ and tissue donation. (4th Hearing-Possible vote)

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), North Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SB 220 **DEFERRED COMPENSATION (Hottinger, J.)** To authorize the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board and local governments to establish designated Roth account features and other tax-deferred or nontax-deferred features permitted for government deferred compensation plans. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 359 **ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY (Duffey, M., Gonzales, A.)** To create an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, or sexual battery. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SCR 15 **FEDERALISM (Obhof, L., Faber, K.)** To reassert the principles of federalism found throughout the Constitution of the United States of America and embodied in the Tenth Amendment, to notify Congress to limit and end certain mandates, and to insist that federal legislation contravening the Tenth Amendment be prohibited or repealed. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 240 **CORONER LAW (Huffman, S., Johnson, T.)** To recognize that coroners include medical examiners; to change the qualifications for holding office as a coroner of a charter county; to require, under certain conditions, and to authorize, under other conditions, supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists; to revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment; to specify the disposition of a firearm when a person meets death under certain circumstances; to specify who pays for the autopsy of an inmate of a state correctional facility; and to make other changes to the coroners' law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 305 **RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (Schuring, K.)** To include new nonteaching employees of The University of Akron as members in the Public Employees Retirement System and to make an appropriation for the University's School Employees Retirement System employer surcharge payments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

SB 310 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects for the biennium ending June 30, 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

HB 475 **FILM TAX CREDITS (Schuring, K.)** To authorize motion picture companies to transfer the authority to claim refundable motion picture tax credits to other persons, to adjust how the credit is calculated, to increase the total amount of credits that may be awarded per year, to remove the limit on the maximum credit amount that may be awarded to a motion picture, and to create a job training program for resident film crew members. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 500 **CASE MANAGEMENT** (Arndt, S.) To revise the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, to establish a case management pilot program, to transfer cash from the Economic Development Program Fund (Fund 5JC0) to the Case Management Pilot Program Fund (Fund 5SK0), and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.

HB 207 **WORKERS COMPENSATION** (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 273 **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE** (Bacon, K.) To enact the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
Canceled: House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.
• If needed
Canceled: Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), North Hearing Rm., 11 a.m.

HB 178 **WINE SALES** (Manning, N.) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 342 **WINERY PERMITS** (Young, R.) To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 187 **ANIMAL TREATMENT** (Ginter, T.) To authorize specified emergency personnel to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SB 151 **DOGS LAW** (Beagle, B.) To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 60 **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE** (Hall, D., Patmon, B.) To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of John Brown, and Jordan Miller, Jr., Banking Commission and Fred DeBiasi, Jr., Savings and Loan Association and Savings Bank Board.

HB 317 ■ **IDENTITY THEFT** (Maag, R.) To enable the parents or guardian of a protected consumer to freeze that consumer's credit to protect the consumer from identity theft. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 303 ■ **DEED PROGRAM** (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 119, 1 p.m.

HB 429 ■ **AUTO TECHNICIANS** (Antani, N., Reineke, B.) Regarding employers of automotive technicians and motor vehicle technicians participating in the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program. (1st Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

~~Canceled: Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.~~

~~Canceled: Joint Legislative Task Force on Department of Transportation Issues, Joint Legislative Task Force on Department of Transportation Issues (Chr. Manning, G., 466-9690, Chr. Grossman, C., 466-9690), TBD, 2 p.m.~~

- Tentative meeting

House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Terhar, L., 466-8258), Rm. 113, 2:15 p.m.

HB 418 ■ **SENIOR HOUSING** (Barnes, J.) To enact the "Senior Housing Relief Act" to prohibit the sale of delinquent property tax certificates for homesteads owned for at least 20 years by a person aged 65 or older. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

HB 463 ■ **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES** (Dever, J.) To establish expedited actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties, to permit private selling officers to conduct judicial and execution sales of real property, to state the intent of the General Assembly regarding mortgage foreclosure actions, to revise the Commercial Paper Law relating to mortgages and lost instruments, and to make other changes relative to foreclosure actions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

House Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (Chr. Landis, A., 466-8035), Rm. 017, 2:30 p.m.

HB 512 ■ **WATER SYSTEMS** (Ginter, T.) To establish requirements governing lead and copper testing for community and nontransient noncommunity water systems, to revise the law governing lead contamination from plumbing fixtures, to make appropriations to the Facilities Construction Commission for purposes of providing grants for lead fixture replacement in eligible schools, and to revise the laws governing the Water Pollution Control Loan and

Drinking Water Assistance Funds. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent-Pending referral)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

HJR 6 **TERRORIST NATIONS (Johnson, T.)** Proposing to enact Section 18 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit state agencies and the state's public retirement systems from contracting with and investing in companies with certain business operations in countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism and to require state agencies and public retirement systems to divest investments from such companies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 213 **COSMETOLOGY LAW (Jordan, K., Tavares, C.)** To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 471 **COMMISSION ELIMINATION (Brown, T.)** To formally abolish certain boards and commissions that have completed their work and to abolish the Compact with Ohio Cities Task Force. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 476 **STATE CONTRACTING (Schuring, K.)** To prohibit a state agency from contracting with a company that is boycotting Israel or disinvesting from Israel. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 504 **PUBLIC RECORDS (Schuring, K.)** To generally protect a private, nonprofit institution of higher education from liability for a breach of confidentiality or other claim that arises from the institution's disclosure of public records. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Select Committee on Medical Marijuana (Chr. Schuring, K., 752-2438), Rm. 313, 3 p.m.

HB 523 **MEDICAL MARIJUANA (Huffman, S.)** To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Susan Block, Ohio Arts Council; Phil Collins, University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees; Michael Flowers, Minority Development Financing Advisory Board; Will Lucas, University of Toledo Board of Trustees; John Martin, Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission and William Scala and Joseph Gingo, University of Akron Board of Trustees

HB 50 **ADOPTION ASSISTANCE (Pelanda, D., Grossman, C.)** To extend the age for which a person is eligible for federal foster care and adoption assistance payments under Title IV-E to age twenty-one, to provide a ward's bill of rights, to require that a guardian receive the Ohio Guardianship Guide, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 267 **VEHICLE FUELS** (Seitz, B., Peterson, B.) To create the Gaseous Fuel Vehicle Conversion Program, to allow a credit against the income or commercial activity tax for the purchase or conversion of an alternative fuel vehicle, to apply the motor fuel tax to the distribution or sale of compressed natural gas, to authorize a temporary, partial motor fuel tax exemption for sales of liquid and compressed natural gas used as motor fuel, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 274 **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Seitz, B.) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 298 **COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONTRACTS** (Schiavoni, J.) Regarding community school operator contracts and the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Judiciary (Committee Record) (**Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008**), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.

HB 268 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING** (Hall, D., Dever, J.) To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 353 **SEX OFFENDERS** (Ruhl, M.) To require a sheriff to mail a notice to every adult member of a household where a person who is required to register as a sex offender resides informing those household members that the person has committed a sexually oriented offense or a child-victim oriented offense. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 439 **VOYEURISM** (Anielski, M.) To include an impaired person as a victim of voyeurism and to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 446 **OVI OFFENSES** (Manning, N.) To specify that the prison term that may be imposed for a third degree felony operating a vehicle while intoxicated ("OVI") offense is a definite period of twelve, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-six, forty-two, forty-eight, fifty-four, or sixty months, to add "harmful intoxicant" to the definition of "drug of abuse" for the purposes of commercial driver's licensing law, to allow a person to assert the existing affirmative defense of driving in an emergency with regard to a prosecution for driving under a suspended driver's license under specified laws, and to specify that certain enhanced penalties for speeding violations apply regardless of whether the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to speeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 488 **CIVIL LIABILITY** (Sprague, R.) To modify the qualified immunity from civil liability for volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons and to permit health care professionals to earn continuing education credit by providing volunteer health care services to indigent and uninsured persons. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.

- The panel will hear testimony from the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program Council, Utility Radiological Safety Board, Backflow Advisory Board, Electrical Safety Inspector Advisory Committee, State Fire Council, Citizen's Advisory Council and Student Tuition Recovery Authority.

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (**Chr. Derickson, T., 644-5094**), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

HB 493 **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Sears, B., Ryan, S.) To make changes in the child abuse and neglect reporting law. (2nd Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 63 **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Pelanda, D., Grossman, C.) To require mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect to notify the county public children services agency when an attorney in fact under a document that purports to grant parental rights requests services from them, to require the agency to investigate the child's placement with the attorney in fact, and to require the agency to file a dependency complaint if it determines that the placement is unsafe for the child. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (**Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823**), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Williams, State Fire Commission

SB 315 **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** (Manning, G.) To make supplemental appropriations related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-All testimony)
Senate Education (Committee Record) (**Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538**), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- The panel will hear a presentation from the Department of Education on the Value Added progress measure and consider the governor's appointment of Robert McDonald Jr. to the State Board of Education

HB 113 **CPR TRAINING** (Grossman, C., Manning, N.) To require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator as a requirement for high school graduation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 425 **RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION** (Hayes, B.) Regarding student religious expression. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 297 **STUDENT EXPULSIONS** (Hughes, J.) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for

communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m.

Health Services Price Disclosure Study Committee, Lazarus Building, 5th Floor, 141 S. High St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

Minority Development Financing Advisory Board, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room West B & C - 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Event Planner

League of Women Voters of Ohio's annual Statehouse Day

CFAES Research and Extension Legislative Luncheon (Ohio State University), Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Ohio House Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Rambling House, 310 E. Hudson St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250 to House Democratic Caucus Fund and/or Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)

Rep. Barbara Sears (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Tally Ho Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Citizens for Sears)

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 6:19 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, April 25, 2016
Attachments: Apr25.htm; Apr25House.htm; Apr25Senate.htm;
160425dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Monday, April 25, 2016

House Education Panel To Examine Value-Added Report Card Measure

Bill To Extend Energy Freeze Introduced In Senate

Democrats Urge Feds To Reject Proposed 'Healthy Ohio' Medicaid Waiver

Gentile Heads Into Fall Election Cycle With Fundraising Lead Over Opponent; GOP Caucus Leaders Hold Huge Cash Advantage; DeWine Leads In High Court Funding

State Tax Credits Aimed At Creating, Keeping Total Of 1,066 Jobs

Sierra Club Pushes For Public Disclosure Of FirstEnergy PPA Projections

Kasich, Cruz Unveil Truce To Stop Trump; Billionaire Rips Plan

Court Briefs: Pike County Crime Scenes Also Sites Of Marijuana Growing Operations; Cleveland Settles Civil Suit With Family Of Tamir Rice

Agency Briefs: Auditor Says Village Of Lincoln Heights Doesn't Qualify For Fiscal Distress; ODH; EPA; CSRAB; BMV; MHAS

Capitol Scene: Willoughby Moves To AMP; SEIU, Boich Promote

Supplemental Agency Calendar

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House

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Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #79 -- Monday, April 25, 2016

House Education Panel To Examine Value-Added Report Card Measure

The House Education Committee this week will begin a deep dive into a state report card measure that's been the subject of debate over its accuracy in determining how much students are improving each year.

The panel will consider for the first time what the chairman has described as a "placeholder bill" (HB 524) that allows for discussion of the value-added report card measure, which reflects how much academic progress students made over the course of a year.

The bill comes in response to recent attempts from some advocacy groups to push the state toward using another measure in addition to, or instead of, "value-added" so that students' progress can be better compared to peers who are similar to them as opposed to their own previous test results, Chairman Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said.

The Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, a charter school advocacy group, recently lobbied for an amendment in a Senate priority measure (SB 3) that would add the similar students measure to the state report card. It pushed for the same addition in a charter school overhaul bill (HB 2) last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2016)

While the former bill could still be a vehicle for potential report card changes, Rep. Brenner said he felt the value-added versus similar students debate deserved separate consideration for now.

"I think they need to be vetted in their own bill and I think we need to have various groups come in and explain why we're doing things the way we are and what's included in it and what the importance is for each," he said in an interview.

Department of Education staff, who have lauded value-added as the best indicator of student success that's being used in the country, will explain how it is calculated during the committee's Wednesday morning meeting.

Rep. Brenner said the panel, which could meet twice the following week to consider the bill, will eventually hear from the measure's creators from Battelle for Kids.

"Many groups want to know what really are the components so we have a better understanding of it," he said. "If they knew a little more about how (value-added) was calculated for instance, they might have a better understanding of what they need to adjust in their school to meet the growth measures."

OCQE has argued that value-added doesn't adequately evaluate schools that have highly mobile and impoverished students, which are often charters and those in urban communities. That's because it's based on how students did last year - possibly at a different school - and doesn't compare them to similar students attending schools that share demographics.

The Ohio 8 Coalition, which has raised similar concerns about report cards not reflecting the uniqueness of each school in the state, will be encouraged to take part in the committee's conversation on value-added, Rep. Brenner said.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), who is sponsoring the measure with Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima), said he's not going into the process with preconceived notions about how to approach value-added or similar students measures.

"I don't have any goals necessarily; it's more of an education for me," he said in an interview. "If we find something that we think we need to do over and above value-added, I'm willing to have that conversation, but before we can get there we need to figure out how value-added measures work. I want to have a discussion with all parties involved because 1.8 million kids in the state are counting on us to get it right."

However, much like the Thomas B. Fordham Institute has found through its research, Rep. Smith said value-added is a "really good concept" because achievement can be measured individually and sometimes reflects how well a school is doing in helping students progress despite not seeing high test scores.

"What's important and I'm really interested in is making sure that every student is making progress, not necessarily all getting 100% on their tests, but that they're making progress from where they've started and that's why I think value-added is very intriguing to me because it levels the playing field," he said.

The Fordham Institute, which sponsors charter schools, recently released a report touting value-added as being the key to uncovering best practices in high-poverty urban schools. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 11, 2016)

Such schools universally receive low overall marks on state report cards, but some receive high value-added ratings, according to the report.

Per House Bill 2, which was enacted earlier this year, ODE is researching the similar students measure and is required to submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations by Dec. 1.

Rep. Brenner said the discussion about how to improve school report cards and the how data is being used in the long term could likely be continued through the Joint Education Oversight Committee.

Bill To Extend Energy Freeze Introduced In Senate

Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) on Monday introduced his much-awaited bill to extend the ongoing renewable energy mandates freeze by three years.

In its major components, the bill (SB 320) is much the same as a draft circulated by Sen. Seitz last week to gauge stakeholder input. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2016)

It maintains the draft's 2019 end date for the freeze, while eliminating compliance measurements for the years 2021-22, 2023-24, and 2026-27.

It also keeps intact draft language prohibiting any state agency from issuing certain guidelines on carbon dioxide emissions, electric dispatch protocols, natural gas utilization, or regulating the acquisition of renewable energy and more "without new and specific state statutory authority to do so."

Several interested parties on both sides of the issue said Monday they had not yet had time to examine the final bill, which was introduced late in the afternoon. But in addition to continuing the freeze, opponents have expressed concerns the draft version would water down the definition of energy efficiency and remove flexibility from the state's response to the Clean Power Plan.

The bill as introduced would expand the definition of energy efficiency to include post-consumer recycled glass by mercantile customers, consumer reductions in water usage, and improvements in wastewater treatment. It would also expand the consumer base eligible for opting out of energy efficiency programs.

Whether Gov. John Kasich would sign such a bill remains to be seen. The governor last year blasted the Energy Mandates Study Committee's recommendation to continue the freeze. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

Governor's office spokesman Joe Andrews declined to comment in detail on the introduced bill, which he said could change by the time it hits the governor's desk.

But Mr. Andrews said the governor has been clear on his opinion on continuing the freeze. Gov. Kasich previously called the idea of an indefinite continuation "unacceptable."

When it comes to the idea of a three year extension, Mr. Andrews said the governor's reaction will be much the same.

"It's still kicking the can down the road," Mr. Andrews said.

At an April 19 campaign stop in Maryland, Gov. Kasich said he has "leverage" over lawmakers in the discussion, according to video from CSPAN.

"They're going to have to come with a commonsense plan because if they try to kill it we'll go back to the unattainable level that was set," Gov. Kasich said. "That's called leverage. I have leverage."

He urged promoting efficiency and renewables, while criticizing politicians for setting the standard "at a level we can't meet."

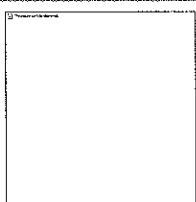
"So we want to have energy," he said. "The problem was the legislature got carried away at one point and our standards were 20 or 25% and they wanted to get rid of it. I said no, we're not going to do it. We'll reset it to fit the economy of Ohio."

Democrats Urge Feds To Reject Proposed 'Healthy Ohio' Medicaid Waiver

Democrats said Monday that a proposed Medicaid waiver to require participants to pay into an account is an effort to roll back the efforts after the Affordable Care Act to increase access to coverage.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) joined state lawmakers at a Statehouse news conference to oppose the so-called "Healthy Ohio" plan, which Sen. Brown said he is actively urging the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reject.

"We're asking them to reject this application and say no to hiking costs for people all across Ohio," he said. "We're going to do all we can to deny the Ohio waiver because it clearly cuts at the heart of the Medicaid."



Sen. Brown

The state is required to pursue the waiver because of language written into the biennial budget bill (HB 64). It would create a five-year demonstration program in which about 1.5 million people on Medicaid are required to pay into a modified health savings account called a Buckeye Account in order to receive coverage. The participant's contributions to the account would be used to pay for co-pays. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2016)

Supporters of the program, including state Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), have said it will improve personal responsibility among people on Medicaid and create incentives for more people to take advantage of primary and preventative care.

Since the waiver was opened for public comment April 15, opponents have criticized it as a way in which legislators have tried to undo the progress of Medicaid expansion. Medicaid participants who don't make the required contributions to the Buckeye Account - 2% of their income up to \$99 per year - would lose coverage.

"I believe this could be a prescription for disaster for many of Ohio's most vulnerable, especially in the fact that it could create a serious setback to the health of many low-income Ohioans," Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) said Monday. "We run the risk of driving hard-working Ohioans away from preventative and maintenance care in a doctor's office and pushing them back into the emergency room."

"We must expose the Healthy Ohio waiver for the Trojan horse that it is," she added.

Rep. Antonio said the proposal is similar to one in Indiana that the state later rolled back.

"They went back on it because what they were finding was that the health outcomes were not helpful once they instituted the premiums," she said.

Rep. Butler, one of the architects of the plan, said the Healthy Ohio plan is similar to the original Indiana plan but with some changes. The Healthy Ohio program doesn't lock people out of reapplying for Medicaid if they lose coverage, he said, it allows people to regain coverage once they start making payments again. The Ohio program also allows people who move to private insurance to take the money in their Buckeye Account with them in a bridge account, he said.

Rep. Butler said the Indiana plan, which was implemented in 2008, was successful.

Without doing something to control costs in Medicaid, Rep. Butler said, the state could face financial struggles with rising costs.

"Doing nothing is not a plan," he said in a Friday interview. "I'm open to suggestions. Come with a solution rather than just spend more money, because that's just unsustainable."

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) said he expected the Healthy Ohio program would lead to higher administrative costs for the state and wouldn't lead to the health outcomes Rep. Butler expects.

"When push comes to shove, we're going to see very little benefit of this for a whole lot of work," he said.

Rep. Antonio said the program could jeopardize coverage for new mothers, something that wouldn't help the state's high infant mortality rates.

Sen. Brown said the fact that some people would be kicked off of Medicaid means many would stay off of it and go back to using hospital emergency rooms without being able to pay the bills. That would cost everyone more money as hospitals go back to having to cover some of the nearly \$2.3 billion in uncompensated care from before the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The proposal goes against the idea of Medicaid, he said.

"When people are rejected from something, that makes it that much more difficult to come back," Sen. Brown said. "The whole promise to people was we'll have a compact with you. You will show up for maintenance and preventative care as well as showing up when you have an acute crisis or health problem and we'll provide the care at no cost."

The comment period on the waiver runs through May 16. The final public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Cincinnati.

Gentile Heeds Into Fall Election Cycle With Fundraising Lead Over Opponent; GOP Caucus Leaders Hold Huge Cash Advantage; DeWine Leads In High Court Funding

Republicans' top Senate target in this fall's elections has a commanding lead thus far in the money race.

Sen. Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville) has built a campaign war chest of \$428,401 in his bid to retain his seat in the 30th Senate District, according to post-primary campaign finance reports.

Post-primary reports include all activity from Feb. 25 to April 15.

Sen. Gentile spent just \$8,110 over that period, while raising \$102,251.

His opponent, Frank Hoagland, a retired Navy SEAL who owns START LLC in Mingo Junction, reported a balance of \$6,358 on hand. He raised \$9,624 and spent \$7,396.

Despite his cash shortcomings, Mr. Hoagland is expected to see a lot of support from the well-heeled Republican Senate Campaign Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2016) Given the politically lopsided, non-competitive nature of most of the GOP-drawn Senate districts, the majority won't have a lot of choices on where to spend its considerable cash advantage.

After spending \$102,351 in his primary victory against Reps. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) and Nan Baker (R-Westlake) in the 24th Senate District's primary election, former lawmaker Matt Dolan has just \$7,892 on hand, according to his filing. He received \$25,967 in donations during the period.

His Democratic opponent, Emily Hagan, staff attorney for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael P. Donnelly, has \$68,904 on hand. She raised \$27,460 and spent \$3,750 during her uncontested primary election.

On the House side, in the race to replace term-limited Rep. Debbie Phillips (D-Albany) Republican Jay Edwards has a commanding fundraising lead, with \$42,852 on hand. He received \$4,600 in donations and spent just \$2,500 during his uncontested primary.

Democrat Sarah Grace has just \$1,742 on hand. She raised \$3,545 and spent \$6,738 in defeating fellow Democrat Eddie Smith in the primary election in the 94th House District.

In the race for the 89th House District seat, Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton), who narrowly defeated former Rep. Chris Redfern during the previous election cycle, has a slight fundraising deficit over his Democratic challenger.

Rep. Arndt has \$2,442 on hand after raising \$5,300 and spending \$5,100. His challenger, Lawrence Hartlaub, has \$4,590 on hand. He raised \$3,135 and spent \$2,359.

In the race for the 95th House District seat, Belmont County Commissioner Ginny Favede holds a significant fundraising advantage over incumbent Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta).

Ms. Favede has \$39,941 on hand. She raised \$11,092 and spent \$1,132. Rep. Thompson, meanwhile, has \$4,220 on hand. He raised \$5,360 and spent \$10,416.

Democrat Bobby McDowall holds a fundraising advantage over Rep. Anthony DeVitis (R-Green) in the race for the 36th House District seat, which the incumbent won with 52.5% of the vote in the last presidential cycle.

Mr. McDowall has \$13,974 on hand after raising \$6070 and spending \$2,258.

Rep. DeVitis has \$3,459 on hand. He raised \$10,115 and spent \$10,118.

Although he is expected to cruise to victory in his race against Democrat John Carlisle in the heavily conservative 72nd House District, former House Speaker Larry Householder has accumulated \$66,250 after spending \$75,187 and raising \$47,395.

Leadership: Republican leaders of both chambers have plenty of cash to spread around in the general election.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has \$420,795 on hand after spending \$17,449.

He raised \$163,147, with his largest contributions - \$12,532 each - coming from Political Education Patterns and Cynthia and Wayne Boich.

He also received \$10,000 donations from the Ohio Health Care Association PAC; the Realtors PAC; GOPAC Election Fund; the PAC for Equine Racing; J.C. Huizenga; and Karen Wright.

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) has \$178,648 on hand after spending \$27,615.

He received \$131,280 in contributions, including \$12,500 from FirstEnergy PAC, \$12,000 from the Realtors PAC and the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association PAC.

He also received donations of \$5,000 from Cardinal Health PAC; Marathon Petroleum Corporation Employees PAC; CCG PAC; and the Ohio State Chiropractic Association PAC.

His counterpart, Minority Leader Strahorn (D-Dayton), had \$2,593 on hand. He spent \$26,407 and raised \$23,525.

His largest contributions came from FirstEnergy PAC, which donated \$4,000, Laborers District Council of Ohio PAC, which donated \$2,500, and the Ohio Association for Justice, which also donated \$2,500.

Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) did not file a post-primary campaign finance report.

Supreme Court: First District Court of Appeals Judge Pat DeWine, a Republican, has more cash on hand than the other three high court candidates combined.

Judge DeWine is sitting on a campaign war chest of \$538,602 after spending \$41,486 and raising \$74,780 during the most recent reporting period.

He faces Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge Cynthia Rice in the general election. The Democrat has \$76,310 on hand. She spent just \$3,226 and raised \$26,850.

In the other race for an open seat Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge John O'Donnell, a Democrat who lost a bid for a high court seat in 2014, has \$60,944 on hand. He spent \$23,043 and raised \$30,070.

His opponent, First District Court of Appeals Judge Pat Fischer, has \$29,220 on hand after spending \$121,579 to dispatch opponent Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge Colleen Mary O'Toole in the Republican primary. He raised \$64,625 in the reporting period.

State Tax Credits Aimed At Creating, Keeping Total Of 1,036 Jobs

Seven business expansion projects were awarded an estimated total of about \$1.64 million in tax credits Monday under multi-year deals with the state that are expected to create 530 jobs and retain 536.

The Tax Credit Authority reported that the projects are expected to result in \$21,241,653 in new payroll and lead to \$24.1 million in additional investments.

The largest incentive, with an estimated value of \$590,000 contingent on the business meeting its growth targets and other factors, went to **EBTH.com LLC**, according to the state.

The online estate sale company received a 1.259%, seven-year Job Creation Tax credit to locate its business in a yet-to-be-determined site in the state. The company plans to create 275 full-time positions generating \$7.7 million in new annual payroll while retaining \$3.3 million in payroll, TCA reported.

The next largest tax credit, valued at an estimated \$428,000, went to **ATK Space Systems, Inc.**, a supplier of rocket motors and other space systems with locations in Kettering and Beavercreek. The company projects it will create 68 full-time jobs with a consolidation involving the two locations, in the process creating \$4.3 million in payroll and retaining \$8 million in payroll, TCA reported. The authority awarded a 1.701%, seven-year JCTC for the project.

Other tax credits approved Monday went to (estimated tax value):

GENCO I, Inc. of Columbus, which expects to create 82 jobs generating \$3 million in new annual payroll with its new project. The logistic services provider received a 1.153%, six-year tax credit (\$192,000).

Ball Metal Food Container, LLC of Columbus plans 50 new full-time positions generating \$2.5 million in annual payroll while retaining \$10.8 million in payroll under an expansion. The TCA approved a 1.228%, six-year JCTC for the packaging manufacturer's project (\$184,000).

Cognitive Ventures, LLC of Dublin expects to create 17 positions and generate \$1.6 million in new payroll by locating in the Franklin County suburb. The concussion testing and management company received a 1.426%, six-year tax credit (\$116,000).

Risk International Services, Inc. of Fairlawn in Summit County plans to create 18 full-time jobs entailing \$1.3 million in payroll while retaining \$4 million in payroll under an expansion. The TCA awarded the risk management firm a 1.401%, six-year JCTC (\$100,145).

Rotex Global, LLC of Cincinnati expects to create 20 full-time positions generating \$867,616 in payroll and retain \$9.9 million in payroll with an expansion project. The provider of dry material screening equipment and technology was awarded a 0.722%, five-year tax credit (\$29,000).

Sierra Club Pushes For Public Disclosure Of FirstEnergy PPA Projections

The fallout of recently approved Power Purchase Agreements continues as FirstEnergy and the Sierra Club argue over whether confidential consumer cost estimates and revenue projections should be made public.

The debate is laid out in the latest filings in a case involving the PPA modified and approved March 31 by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 31, 2016)

In that order, the commission generally approved an eight-year plan for consumers to ensure profits on the company's aging power plants. Now PPA opponent Sierra Club is attempting to make public internal FirstEnergy projections the group says show how much the plan might cost customers.

The projections in question stem from the December testimony of Sierra Club witness Tyler Comings, a senior associate at Massachusetts-based Synapse Energy Economics Inc. In redacted portions of that testimony, according to FirstEnergy's PUCO filing, Mr. Comings discussed "a certain projection regarding the alleged cost of Rider RRS" over the terms of the Electric Security Plan.

The Sierra Club, in its own filing, referred to the information as a "projection of costs and revenues" under the rider "including a calculation of the net impact that the Rider RRS would have on customers over the eight-year term using FES's forecast of market prices."

On Friday, the Sierra Club moved to modify the existing protective order issued during prior proceedings, requesting the PUCO modify the order to allow the information to become public. It argues the projection would assist the public in understanding and interpreting the PUCO's recent order and that it's not dissimilar from previous information made public during the hearing process.

"This projection, which contains no plant-specific data, is not a trade secret and therefore should be removed from the scope of the commission's protective order," Sierra Club argued.

"Because disclosure of the FES projection would facilitate the public's review and understanding of the Commission's decision, and because this projection is not a trade secret, this information should be publicly released," the group continued.

In its own filing Friday, the company disagrees, accusing the group of "threatening" to release trade secrets. FirstEnergy's motion is for the PUCO to maintain its existing protective order, which it said would keep that projection outside the public domain.

"This projection was generated using inputted confidential and proprietary cost and revenue projections that FES provided to Sierra Club in response to a subpoena request," reads FirstEnergy's filing. "Disclosure of this material could economically harm FES by placing FES at a competitive disadvantage."

On April 15, Sierra Club attorneys wrote to FirstEnergy, advising the company it intended to make the information public "because they do not contain any trade secrets," according to copies of an email exchange submitted to the PUCO as an exhibit.

"Apparently frustrated with the Commission's decision, Sierra Club has now decided to resort to self-help and has threatened to insert this already protected information into the public domain," FirstEnergy argued in its filing.

That email kick-started the filings, prompting a PUCO attorney examiner to set a Tuesday deadline by which parties may file responses to the motions. No replies to those arguments will be considered, the examiner determined.

Kasich, Cruz Unveil Truce To Stop Trump's Billionaire Rps Plan

GOP frontrunner Donald Trump blasted Gov. John Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, accusing the two trailing Republicans of a desperate attempt at "collusion."

Mr. Trump's statement followed news that the Cruz campaign will lay off New Mexico and Oregon, allowing Gov. Kasich a clear shot at challenging Mr. Trump, while the Kasich camp agreed to cede Indiana to the senator.

The two haven't gone as far as to urge their supporters to vote for the other candidate - in contrast Gov. Kasich on Monday said his Indiana supporters "ought to vote for me" - but the pair has essentially agreed to not spend money in those respective states and are publicly urging their super PACs to do the same.

By doing so, the pair - each of which has been mathematically eliminated from seizing the nomination prior to a contested convention - hopes to launch a two-front attack that will block Mr. Trump from collecting the required 1,237 delegates.

"It is sad that two grown politicians have to collude against one person who has only been a politician for 10 months in order to try and stop that person from getting the Republican nomination," Mr. Trump said in his statement.

If successful, the gambit would force a contested convention, where both Sen. Cruz and Gov. Kasich believe they stand a shot at earning the nomination on the second ballot or beyond. But strategists for the two temporary allies were quick to say the truce only stands in those three states.

"Our goal is to have an open convention in Cleveland, where we are confident a candidate capable of uniting the party and winning in November will emerge as the nominee," Kasich Chief Strategist John Weaver said. "We believe that will be John Kasich, who is the only candidate who can defeat Secretary Clinton and preserve our GOP majority in the Congress."

Cruz Campaign Manager Jeff Roe, in his statement, said Mr. Trump would be a down-ballot "disaster" who would get "blown out" by either Democratic contender.

"To ensure that we nominate a Republican who can unify the Republican Party and win in November, our campaign will focus its time and resources in Indiana and in turn clear

the path for Gov. Kasich to compete in Oregon and New Mexico, and we would hope that allies of both campaigns would follow our lead."

Mr. Trump, in response, said the Cruz campaign is "in free fall" and criticized Gov. Kasich for having fewer delegates than Sen. Marco Rubio who dropped out of the race more than one month ago.

"This horrible act of desperation, from two campaigns who have totally failed, makes me even more determined, for the good of the Republican Party and our country, to prevail!" Mr. Trump said.

The tight race, in which every delegate Mr. Trump earns could be the last inch he needs to cross the 1,237 delegate threshold, has shifted more importance toward late voting states like Indiana, which heads to the polls May 3.

Indiana has 57 delegates - 30 which go to the state winner, and 27 others allotted to winners by congressional district. Recent polling continues to show Gov. Kasich lagging in Indiana, making Sen. Cruz the more competitive of the two.

An April 20-22 CBS News/YouGov poll found Mr. Trump at 40%, Sen. Cruz at 35% and Gov. Kasich at 20%. An April 18-21 Fox News poll found Mr. Trump (41%) similarly leading Sen. Cruz (33%) and Gov. Kasich (16%). A WTHR/HPI poll showed Mr. Trump at 37%, followed by Sen. Cruz (31%) and Gov. Kasich (22%).

"Due to the fact that the Indiana primary is winner-take-all statewide and by congressional district, keeping Trump from winning a plurality in Indiana is critical to keeping him under 1,237 bound delegates before Cleveland," Mr. Weaver said. "We are very comfortable with our delegate position in Indiana already, and given the current dynamics of the primary there, we will shift our campaign's resources west and give the Cruz campaign a clear path in Indiana."

Tuesday: Recent polls show Gov. Kasich in second in four northeastern states voting this week, while he battles Sen. Cruz in an effort to reach second in Pennsylvania. In addition to the Keystone State, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware vote Tuesday.

Recent Pennsylvania polls - from the left-leaning Public Policy Polling, CBS News/YouGov, and NBC/*Wall Street Journal/Marist* - show the governor in third, three or four points behind Sen. Cruz. In those polls, Sen. Cruz lags Mr. Trump by between 18-26 points. An April 21-24 poll from American Research Group showed Mr. Trump at 50%, Sen. Cruz at 23% and Gov. Kasich at 21%.

Rhode Island's recent polls show Gov. Kasich in a distant second. PPP's April 22-24 poll had him at 23%, down 38 points from Mr. Trump's 61% and 10 points above Sen. Cruz. Brown University, in an April 19-21 poll, found Mr. Trump at 38%, followed by Gov. Kasich (25%) and Sen. Cruz (14%).

In other states, PPP's April 22-24 Connecticut poll placed Mr. Trump at 59%, ahead of Gov. Kasich (25%) and Sen. Cruz (13%). An April 21-24 ARG poll of Maryland found Mr. Trump leading Gov. Kasich 55-21%, followed by Sen. Cruz (19%). And in Delaware, the only poll to date, conducted April 17-18 by Gravis, found Mr. Trump at 55%, Gov. Kasich at 18% and Sen. Cruz at 15%.

Vice President: The Kasich campaign recently began vetting potential vice presidential candidates, Gov. Kasich said in a Sunday CBS interview.

Asked whether he plans to unveil the VP candidate prior to the convention in order to make the Kasich ticket more attractive to delegates, Gov. Kasich didn't close the door on the idea.

"These things come quickly and you don't want to have yourself in a position where you've got to pick somebody out of a hat," Gov. Kasich said.

Endorsements: Endorsing Gov. Kasich in recent days were the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, the *Lewistown (Penn.) Sentinel*, and former Pennsylvania U.S. Rep. Melissa Hart. The campaign also expanded its Washington leadership team.

Court Briefs: Pike County Crime Scenes Also Sites Of Marijuana Growing Operations; Cleveland Settles Civil Suit With Family Of Tamir Rice

Three of the four Pike County locations at which law enforcement officials on Friday discovered the bodies of eight individuals housed marijuana growing operations, Attorney General Mike DeWine said at a news conference Sunday.

Mr. DeWine did not say the murders and the marijuana growing operations are linked. He said investigators have not ruled out the possibility that there was more than one killer involved.

He also cautioned that the investigation could be lengthy.

"This was a pre-planned execution of eight individuals. It was a sophisticated operation and those who carried it out were trying to do everything they could do to hinder the investigation and their prosecution," he said at the news conference.

Eighteen pieces of evidence are being analyzed for forensics and ballistics at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation crime lab, five search warrants have been executed, more than 50 people have been interviewed and more than 100 tips have been received about the case, according to Mr. DeWine.

Also over the weekend, the attorney general's office released the names of the victims, all of whom are members of the same family and ranged in age from 16 to 44. On Monday, the attorney general's office released a chart to explain the familial relationships of the victims.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader said at the news conference that he has spoken to remaining members of the family and advised them to be armed.

Cincinnati restaurant owner Jeff Ruby is offering a \$25,000 reward for information that results in the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the killings.

The attorney general's office on Monday also announced that autopsies had been completed on all eight victims.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call 1-855-BCI-OHIO or the Pike County Sheriff's Office at 740-947-2111.

Rice Settlement: The city of Cleveland and the family of Tamir Rice have reached a settlement in a civil suit over the shooting death of the 12-year-old boy.

The family will receive \$6 million over the course of two years, according to the settlement approved by U.S. District Judge Dan Polster. The settlement will also require the approval of a Cuyahoga County Probate Court judge.

Mr. Rice was killed by Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann in November 2014 after receiving reports of someone in a park with a gun. Mr. Rice was wielding a toy gun at the time of the shooting.

A grand jury late last year declined to bring any charges against Mr. Loehmann for the shooting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 28, 2015)

The lack of charges has led some to call for changes to the grand jury process in Ohio in cases of officer-involved shootings. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 14, 2016)

A task force created by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to improve public confidence in the system is also exploring the issue. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 1, 2016)

In the wake of the settlement, the ACLU of Ohio called for reforms to the criminal justice system.

"Money alone cannot provide justice in the tragic death of this child," Executive Director Christine Link said in a statement. "The web of laws and practices that prevent accountability for police misconduct needs to be taken apart and replaced with concrete solutions to eliminate racial bias in the justice system. Merely paying for police misconduct without addressing the deeper issues will allow this behavior to continue year after year."

Agency Briefs: Auditor Says Village Of Lincoln Heights Doesn't Qualify For Fiscal Distress; ODH; EPA; CSRAB; BMV; MHAS

The Village of Lincoln Heights in Hamilton County doesn't meet the standards for fiscal distress status, State Auditor Dave Yost announced Monday.

Auditor Yost sent a team of auditors to the community April 21, and staff will continue to work in the village as part of its regularly scheduled financial audit.

The village did not meet the conditions for any of the three levels of fiscal distress - fiscal caution, fiscal watch or fiscal emergency - because it is current on pension obligations and its payables, including obligations to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, are within 30 days of being paid, according to the auditor's office.

"While the village's budget continues to be tighter than two coats of paint, it's paying its bills," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "The village doesn't meet the standards for any type of fiscal distress oversight. We have been and remain concerned about its fiscal health and will continue to monitor the situation."

Health: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance for outdoor workers, mosquito control workers and business travels to prevent exposure to the Zika virus, according to ODH.

Ohio has 10 confirmed cases of Zika involving people who returned from affected countries.

For outdoor workers, the CDC recommends workers use insect repellants, wear clothing that covers hands, arms, legs and other exposed skin and get rid of sources of standing water whenever possible. For mosquito control workers, the CDC also recommends they use protection to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Employers should consider giving business travelers flexibility when traveling to areas with active Zika transmission. The CDC also recommended that pregnant women not travel to any affected area, and that people who return to the U.S. from affected areas try to avoid mosquito bites for three weeks to prevent passing the virus to domestic mosquitoes.

"Workers who are exposed on the job to mosquitoes or the blood or other body fluids of infected individuals may be at risk for occupationally acquired Zika virus infection," ODH Medical Director Dr. Mary DiOrio said in a statement.

ODH will hold a workshop Tuesday to help local health departments and others prepare for mosquito season. The workshop will focus on monitoring and controlling mosquitoes who carry diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus.

Ohio EPA: The EPA awarded grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to local governments to strengthen recycling and litter prevention efforts. The grants are designed to help expand curbside recycling programs and support infrastructure for recovery facilities.

Grant communities must commit to 50% matching funds.

The EPA also awarded grants for two projects to help companies develop markets for reusing scrap tires.

The agency awarded \$350,000 to Liberty Tire Services of Ohio LLC, in partnership with Jackson Township, to purchase scrap tire processing equipment. A \$50,000 grant went to the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District and the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation to buy processing equipment to create geo cells made of scrap tire material.

Ohio Statehouse: The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board will mark the 151st anniversary of the repose of President Abraham Lincoln's body in the Statehouse Friday with an event involving a group of Civil War reenactors who will provide an honor guard for a replica of the president's casket.

The event will take place in the rotunda from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A reenactors will also hold a Civil War encampment on the grounds of the Statehouse, including cannon firings every half hour.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles: The BMV unveiled a new specialty license plate for female veterans, which was available starting Monday.

The plate is available for any woman currently serving or retired from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard.

"We are proud of these brave women who have served our country, and are pleased that Ohioans can now honor them by displaying the new special plate on their vehicle," BMV Registrar Don Petit said in a statement.

More than 67,000 female veterans live in Ohio. The new plate is one of 40 military-related specialty plates.

"Ohio's women veterans are groundbreakers," said Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill, "They have served with distinction in every war and we thank them for their role in preserving and protecting our freedom."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: Director Tracy Plouck testified before a public hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Friday in Cleveland. The hearing was focused on the impact of the opioid epidemic in Ohio, and included Sens. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and Sherrod Brown (D-Avon).

Director Plouck joined Attorney General Mike DeWine and others in testifying about the battle against opioid addiction.

Capitol Scene: Willoughby Moves To AMP, SEIU Boiled Promote

Charles Willoughby, who most recently worked as director of energy and environmental policy at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, has been named director of government affairs for American Municipal Power, Inc.

In the new role, Mr. Willoughby will be the primary Statehouse contact for AMP and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association.

"Charles will work closely with AMP and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) on behalf of our member utilities," said Michael Beirne, vice president of external affairs. "The issues confronting Ohio's municipal electric systems are many and often complex. His background and knowledge will be a great asset to the organizations and our members."

Before joining the Chamber, he was a government affairs consultant to the Industrial Energy Users - Ohio and was policy and legislative liaison for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. He also held staff positions for Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) when he served in the Senate, and for former Rep. Courtney Combs.

Mr. Willoughby is a graduate of Miami University.

Service Employee Union: SEIU District 1199 announced that Anthony Caldwell has been named director for public affairs.

"We are pleased to announce Anthony Caldwell as our new Director of Public Affairs for SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH," president Becky Williams said. "Anthony has spent his career dedicated to improving the lives of working people and working to achieve greater social and economic justice. Caldwell's experience in communications and politics matched with his depth of knowledge of the legislature have prepared him to lead in this important role."

The group is the health care and social service union for West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, representing almost 29,000 workers.

Boich: The Boich Companies announced that Mathew T. Evans has been named the firm's president.

In the new position, Mr. Evans will take an increased leadership role as the company continues to diversify in energy markets.

"Obviously, the energy mix in this country has and will be seeing significant changes," Mr. Evans said. "I look forward to helping the company further evolve as we move into the future."

Before the promotion, Mr. Evans was president of external relations for Boich Companies. He joined the company in 2001, and leads the company's government affairs activities at state and federal levels.

Mr. Evans is a former Ohio Senate aide who also worked for former Gov. George V. Voinovich. He also spent five years working in legislative and regulatory affairs for Cinergy, now known as Duke Energy. He is a graduate of Ohio University.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 26

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room West B & C - 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 28

State Board of Education, Ohio Department of Education, 25 South Front Street, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ethics Commission, 126 S. State St., Meeting Room A, Westerville, 12 p.m. (Advisory Committee)

EMIS Advisory Board, Statehouse Rm. 116, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 29

Accountancy Board, Rm. West B&C, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 5

Ethics Commission, 30 West Spring Street, Meeting Room 2, 2nd Fl., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

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House Activity for Monday, April 25, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 529 ■ **FIREARMS** (Rutherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training or comparable training and who is authorized to carry firearms by the law enforcement agency the professional is serving to carry firearms while on duty in the same manner, to the same extent, in the same areas, and subject to the same potential for civil and criminal liability as a law enforcement officer of the agency; and to grant such a professional, while on duty in that capacity, the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a person who was issued a concealed handgun license. Am. 109.71, 109.73, 109.75, 109.79, 109.801, and 2923.126 and to enact sections 109.748 and 109.771

HB 530 ■ **CHILD CARE CENTERS** (Rutherford, W.) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers. Am. 5104.01, 5104.015, and 5104.99 and to enact sections 5104.0113, 5104.15, 5104.16, and 5104.17

HB 531 ■ **MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS** (Hill, B.) To require townships to provide mileage reimbursement to a member of a board of township trustees and to a township fiscal officer for travel within the township that is necessary in the performance of the member's or fiscal officer's duties. Am. 505.242 and 507.091

HB 532 ■ **REAL ESTATE SALES** (Smith, R.) Relating to real estate brokers and salespersons. Am. 4735.01, 4735.06, 4735.07, 4735.09, 4735.10, 4735.141, 4735.18, 4735.24, 4735.51, and 4735.65 and to enact sections 1386, 4735.081, 4735.091, and 4735.23

HB 533 ■ **AWARENESS MONTH** (Sprague, R.) To designate the month of May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month." Am. 5.259

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Commission on Minority Health: Rep. Sykes

Joint Education Oversight Committee of the House of Representatives and Senate: Rep. Patterson as ranking minority member

Medina County Transportation Improvement District Board of Trustees: Rep. Hambley

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Senate Activity for Monday, April 25, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 318 ■ **DISCRIMINATION** (Skindell, M., Tavares, C.) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law. Am. 9.03, 124.93, 125.111, 153.59, 153.591, 340.12, 511.03, 717.01, 1501.012, 1751.18, 2927.03, 3113.36, 3301.53, 3304.15, 3304.50, 3314.06, 3332.09, 3721.13, 3905.55, 4111.17, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.021, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4117.19, 4735.16, 4735.55, 4757.07, 4758.16, 4765.18, 5104.09, 5107.26, 5123.351, 5126.07, 5165.08, 5515.08, and 5709.832

SB 319 ■ **DRUG REGULATIONS** (Eklund, J.) To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, and the provision of addiction services. Am. 2925.61, 2929.14, 2947.231, 3707.56, 3719.121, 3719.21, 4729.06, 4729.071, 4729.16, 4729.18, 4729.19, 4729.38, 4729.51, 4729.54, 4729.541, 4729.55, 4729.571, 4729.60, 4729.68, 4729.99, 4731.22, 4731.94, 4776.02, 4776.04, and 5119.391, to enact sections 3707.58, 3707.59, 4729.10, 4729.40, 4729.45, 4729.513, 4729.514, 4729.553, 4729.90, 4729.901, 4729.902, 4729.91, 4729.92, 4729.921, 4729.93, 4729.94, 4729.95, 4729.96, and 4731.943, and to repeal section 4729.42 of the Revised Code and to amend Sections 331.90 and 331.120 of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly

SB 320 ■ **RENEWABLE ENERGY** (Seitz, B.) To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction, to permit property owners to petition municipal corporations and townships for the purpose of developing and implementing special energy improvement projects, to govern condominium association participation in special improvement districts, to require deployment and permit cost recovery of advanced energy analytics technology by electric distribution utilities, and to revise the law governing net metering service provided by electric utilities and electric services companies. Am. 710.01, 1710.02, 1710.06, 1710.13, 3706.25, 4582.06, 4582.31, 4928.01, 4928.02, 4928.55, 4928.64, 4928.66, 4928.662, 4928.6610, and 4928.67; to recodify section 4928.67 as sections